



# Young Voices 2022 - COVID-19 Management Plan

This document provides information for all activities undertaken on the Young Voices Tour 2022. This includes backstage, rehearsal/performance spaces and any other venue during the 2022 YV Tour. This guidance will ensure that operational activities surrounding the activities and experiences are undertaken in a responsible and controlled manner, including welfare facilities.

This document will cover COVID-19 strategies that refer to and work within the UK government guidance and laws. The virus is a worldwide pandemic, and these strategies can be adapted and used in other countries. Young Voices will always work within the laws and guidance of the country they are travelling to and performing in.

As restrictions are lifted, maintaining good habits which minimize transmission will be important, for both individuals and for businesses. This continues under the headings of 'hands, face, space, fresh air' and includes testing, track, and trace. It is imperative therefore, that Young Voices integrates COVID-19 protocols into the daily operational strategies in the planning, build and practice/performance phases of their activities. These protocols will consider PHE, HSE, NHS and government guidelines.

## 1.1 Government Legislation

On 22nd February 2021, the UK government introduced a step system as part of the COVID-19 Spring Response.



**Step 4: 19th July** – The government has removed all legal limits on social contact and has published accompanying guidance on how best to reduce the risk of transmission and protect ourselves and each other in both leisure and working situations. This has enabled large events, including theatre performances and nightclubs, with no capacity restrictions or social distancing measures in place. The Autumn and Winter COVID-19 Response<sup>1</sup>, published in September 2021, further outlines the approach employers, and therefore performance and workshop organisers, should take when planning and operating these activities. Mitigation and risk reduction is key to a safe workplace and performance/workshop space.

## 1.2 Omicron Variant

The WHO has designated SARS-CoV-2 variant B.1.1.529 a Variant of Concern (VOC) (1) and named the VOC as 'Omicron' (the fifteenth letter of the Greek alphabet). In light of emerging evidence the government has now triggered 'Plan B' which will mean everyone over 18 in the venue will be asked to show proof of their COVID status (which could include: A negative Lateral flow or PCR test result, proof of double vaccination or proof of natural immunity through previously having Covid in the past 6 months). Please check the arena website for updates nearer to the time. Audience members will also need to wear masks whilst in the venue.

## Overview

Young Voices performances will fall under current guidelines that have been updated, along with the current working safely guidance. Overall, Young Voices aim to integrate required COVID-19 risk mitigation, as is applicable. This document contains the information of the overall risk assessment and protocols with focused, specific information to address and reduce the risks for all.

Young Voices is using guidance from the government and from other bodies such as The Purple Guide to create protocols to keep the risks from COVID-19 transmission as low as is reasonably practicable for their staff, clients, attendees and other performers.

For any rehearsal, performance or build for a performance, Young Voices will put in a series of COVID-19 safety measures, based on risk assessments, to protect staff and others. All involved need to understand that the only 100% certainty regarding zero transmission of the virus is to eliminate the risk by not undertaking the work. The risk assessments and COVID-19 safety risk management strategies are for those staff attending to work and are in the main to describe how Young Voices seeks to reduce the incidence and risk of COVID-19 transmission, but also to breed confidence in their team and others present.

The Young Voices COVID-19 supervisor, Clare Edwards has undertaken specific training for the role and will keep her knowledge up to date as the situation develops over the winter.

For the attending children's choirs and the touring company, Young Voices will be building COVID-19 safety measures into the planning and operational management for the tour. The UK government are now emphasising personal responsibility to consider the associated risks and how to stay safe. We understand that confidence and comfort will be key to encouraging attendance. Our communication strategies will encourage risk aversion without reducing confidence of attending and enjoyment whilst being present.

To protect staff and attendees Young Voices will use the following six steps principles:

- 1. Have a health and safety risk assessment that includes risks from COVID-19.**
- 2. Turn people with COVID-19 symptoms away – both performers and attendees.**
- 3. Collaborate with suppliers and venues to provide adequate ventilation in indoor spaces**
- 4. Clean more often.**
- 5. Enable people to check in if applicable and/or keep a register of those in attendance for 21 days to assist the NHS track and trace for any outbreaks that may occur.**
- 6. Communicate and train.**
- 7. Collaborate with suppliers and venues to improve site flow where possible.**
- 8. Recommend proof of COVID-19 status in the form of either double vaccination, immunity, or proof of negative test for attendees and for employees.**