Dear Chicago Children’s Choir families,

As we continue to monitor the updates on the Coronavirus (COVID-19), we are evaluating upcoming choir activities. Out of an abundance of caution, we have decided to cancel our larger scale events for the next two weeks. This includes the World Music Festival (Saturday, March 14) and the Allegro Connection Day (Saturday, March 21). This decision was made in an effort to reduce the risk of community spread. At this time we are still holding regular rehearsals. We will continue to evaluate whether to cancel any of our tours.

The CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) is learning more about this virus and how it spreads. According to the CDC website, the virus is thought to spread mainly from person to person when they are most symptomatic through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. This is why it is crucial that singers stay home if they have symptoms of the virus (fever, cough, and shortness of breath). Singers who attend a school or another community institution that has recommended a self-quarantine should not attend rehearsal. Singers who have traveled to any location (including airport layovers) with widespread community transmission of COVID-19 should stay home for 14 calendar days after their return date.

As we learn more about the spread of COVID-19, we trust our families’ decisions in determining whether they are comfortable sending singers to rehearsal, even if they are healthy. Starting today and throughout this time, attendance will be optional. In favor of exercising caution and preventing community spread, Chicago Children’s Choir will forgo our attendance policy. When an absence is anticipated, please continue to notify Program Staff, as usual.

We take the safety and health of singers and community seriously. The response to the Coronavirus involves a community effort to raise awareness and prevent further spread. As always, please be mindful of recommended health practices, as detailed on the CDC website for prevention and treatment:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.

We appreciate all the cooperation of our families, and we will be in touch with any further updates as information develops.

Sincerely,
Jocelyn

JOCELYN SMITH
Chief Program Officer
Chicago Children’s Choir