

# ***Sexton Music Studio COVID-19 Pandemic Update***

***March 19, 2021***

***\*Let's get this out of the way: Sexton Music Studio is planning on re-opening to in person one on one lessons, teaching violin, viola, cello, bass, piano and bluegrass fiddle as of Monday, April 5, 2021.\****

**Q: So Sexton Music Studio is reopening for in person lessons? Tell me more?**

A: [Sexton Music Studio](#) is physically located inside a church building, the Bull Run Unitarian Universalists congregation. The building is presently closed to all non-essential activities. A church task force has been created and is working towards reopening the building in gradual stages, based on and informed by best practices, available science and CDC guidance. **We have reached consensus that the studio will reopen for one on one music instruction lessons as of Monday, April 5, 2021, with best practices described throughout this FAQ.**

**Q: Is Chris fully vaccinated?**

A: **Yes.** Chris received his first Moderna vaccine dose on January 29, 2021, and his second vaccine dose on March 5, 2021. He is now more than 14 days after his second vaccination dose.

**Q: What do the CDC and the Commonwealth of Virginia say about Chris teaching lessons in person?**

A: While the CDC and Virginia do not specifically address music lessons, [the CDC does say the following](#):

- You can gather indoors with fully vaccinated people without wearing a mask.
- You can gather indoors with unvaccinated people from one other household (for example, visiting with relatives who all live together) without masks, unless any of those people or anyone they live with has an [increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19](#).

Additionally, we will be following guidelines set forth through the [Governor's Executive Order 72, Third Amended, last updated March 1, 2021](#).

**Q: So are we wearing masks? What if I'm vaccinated too?**

A: Adults should absolutely wear a mask, and Chris will be doing so even though he is fully vaccinated. If you need one, just ask, we'll have extras. We do not currently have any voice students; singing has been identified as an increased risk factor for COVID-19 spread.

Regarding kids, per [Virginia Governor Northam's Executive Order 63](#), all persons 10 and older are to wear a mask / face covering inside buildings. We'll be following that. For children under 10, a conversation with their parent or guardian is essential on what fits their age and maturity. Let's have a chat. Executive Order 63 strongly recommends that they do so, and let's be honest, they're used to it by now, probably even more than us adults, right?

Let's be conservative and make sure we do this safely and thoughtfully. We'll re-evaluate over time based on experience, vaccine distribution, case load and professional guidance. If you're also vaccinated and comfortable telling us, hooray and please do! However, a lot of our students are minors who are not yet eligible.

**Q: I may not be comfortable returning in person when the studio re-opens. Can I continue virtual lessons?**

A: Of course! This also obviously applies to our out of town students. Virtual lessons are clearly part of our new normal and is expected to be permanent.

**Q: Can I split it up, come in some of the time and do virtual lessons some of the time?**

A: Yep!

**Q: What precautions are Sexton Music Studio taking to ensure student and teacher safety?**

A:

- Prior to physically re-opening, the Studio will be deep cleaned.
- The congregation also maintains a cleaning contract which includes the Studio, stairwell, and entryways. This has been continued throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Hand sanitizer will be used before and after each lesson for both student and teacher.
- After each lesson, instruments, materials and furniture used will be wiped down and sanitized. If you haven't reviewed the CDC's website "[How to Protect Yourself and Others](#)," please do so.
- Masks, as indicated above, are still required.
- No contact temperature checks will be conducted. [Per CDC guidelines](#), persons registering a fever of 100.4F or above will be immediately sent home.
- A verbal screening for COVID-19 symptoms prior to studio entry.
- A [HEPA H13](#) air purifier will be in use at the Studio.

**Q: Who can be in the Studio?**

A: Chris, the student, and a parent or guardian, if applicable and appropriate. Parents, there's a lovely coffee shop next door at Grounds Central Station, and they also have outdoor seating. Try the iced mocha coffee!

**Q: What are your lesson formats?**

A: We do not do group lessons; this helps reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Often, students in the same family have concurrent lessons, but not at the same time in the same space. Lessons either run 30 or 60 minutes each.

**Q: Is Sexton Music Studio in a highly trafficked area of the building?**

A: Not especially, no. We're on the third floor, which is not used for church services. Occasionally on Sunday mornings, side rooms have been used for things like religious education and committee meetings. These are well away from the Sexton Music Studio portion of the floor. The building has been closed and all services have been conducted by Zoom since mid-March, 2020. A task force has been

created by the congregation to develop strategies and best practices related to their own eventual and gradual reopening. When those are released, we will share them with you as appropriate.

**Q: The building also has an outdoor space. Can we have lessons in the courtyard?**

A: Weather permitting, sure! Just coordinate in advance, and be aware people might hear you. On the plus side, that might be a positive motivator to practice a bit more!

**Q: Are you accepting new students?**

A: Sure. We're definitely setting up scheduling for the spring and summer as well. Virtual and/or in person, and you can bounce back and forth based on your comfort level, family situation, and what the science indicates. First lesson remains free for all new students, and anyone referring a student gets a free month on a half hour weekly lesson basis. Call or text Chris at 703-975-5075, email [chris@sextonmusicstudio.com](mailto:chris@sextonmusicstudio.com), or visit the [Sexton Music Studio webpage](#) or [Facebook](#) for more information.

**Q: I have a question that wasn't answered here...?**

A: Likely! We're all in this strange new world together, friends. Contact Chris and let's chat.