



COVID-19 PLAN FOR RE-OPENING

Guiding Principles

1. Resumption of dance activities will contribute many health, economic, social and cultural benefits to Halifax as society emerges from the COVID-19 environment.
2. Resumption of dance activities should not compromise the health of individuals or the community.
3. Resumption of dance activities will be based on objective health information to ensure they are conducted safely and do not risk increased COVID-19 local transmission rates.
4. All decisions about resumption of dance activities must take place with careful reference to these Principles following close consultation with Federal, Provincial and/or Local Public Health Authorities.
5. All individuals who participate in, and contribute to, dance activities will be considered in resumption plans.
6. Significantly enhanced risk mitigation (including physical distancing) must be applied to all dance activities.
7. We will respond to the directives of Public Health Authorities. Localised outbreaks may require immediate restriction of activity and Edgett Dance & Wellness must be ready to respond accordingly.
8. The risks associated with large gatherings are such that, for the foreseeable future, guidance for safe numbers will be taken solely from Provincial and/ or Local Public Health Authorities.
9. Dance activities will be limited to the minimum required to support the participants.
10. The dance environment for working or training will be designed to ensure precautions are taken to minimise risk to dancers, students, teachers, administrative staff, families and others visiting the environment.
11. The safety and well-being of the Halifax community will be the priority in any further and specific decisions about the resumption of all dance activities.

The following transitional rules mean that social contact will only be possible to a limited extent. Especially in the event of a longer transitional period, it is of important that dance schools continue to give people the opportunity to move through artistic dance - which, among other things has a positive impact on our immune system - to offer as well as to create a psychological balance and to maintain social ties despite distance requirements.

Managing the Studio Environment

Physical Distancing

- Based on the size of the studio spaces, Studio A (50'x27') & B (50'x35'), it would be very easy to maintain more than 6 ft between people as per physical distancing requirements. At time of reopening, we will limit to a maximum of 8 dancers including instructors until such time as physical distancing requirements are changed by the Health Department. This can be a mix of solo and partners provided the partners meet the following condition:
 - Only partners from the same household or a bubbled household will be allowed to partner dance.
- All class start times will be staggered by 15 minutes with a 15-minute buffer to avoid students entering a studio to have contact with those exiting the same studio.
- Students will enter the studio through the main entrance and leave the studio through the exit at the opposite end of the lobby.
- The main floor lobby will be available to those waiting to enter Studio A. Students waiting for a class in Studio B will social distance in the Loft.
- Chairs will be set up in the Loft taking into account social distancing.
- Students without a household or bubbled partner will be encouraged to take technique classes or a group class without a partner.
- Instructors will teach in the same studio during the course of a day of instruction, including privates.

Cleaning

- Shared surfaces and facilities/spaces will be cleaned between each class.
- All garbage cans can be opened with a foot pedal.
- Each floor has two separate washrooms
- The mezzanine washroom will be restricted to staff use.
- Hand sanitizers are available within each studio and each designated lobby space.
- All technical equipment – CD player, sound board, etc. will be cleaned by each teacher prior to leaving the studio.
- Paper hand towels will be available in the washrooms as well as a push pump soap

Maintaining the safety of students/staff

- All staff and students must wear masks.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in each lobby area and students encouraged to use the sanitizer or to wash their hands prior to and following each class.
- Students and staff should not come to the studio if feeling ill.
- New figures/steps will be video-taped and posted to encourage unwell students to stay at home, understanding that they will not miss anything.

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- When traveling, air droplets become suspended, so if following the line of dance greater distance needs to be maintained – 13-16 feet. It is better to be moving beside someone than behind.
- Squares will be marked off on the floor for personal belongings such as purses.
- Outside shoes removed in lobby, dance shoes put on in studio.

PREPARING TO RETURN

- Consider and adapt your class plans to factor in the impact of lockdown and isolation mentally and physically on your students e.g allow more time for explanations and instructions, slowly rebuild technique
- Communicate with your students clearly demonstrating all the actions you have taken and measures you have in place to allay any fears or concerns about returning to the studio.
- Studio owners and teachers must ensure students are aware of the following through instruction and relevant signage:
 - o Encourage regular hand washing and use of hand sanitizer. Hand sanitizer used pre and post class for all participants including teachers.
 - o Ensure coughs and sneezes are covered by a tissue or a flexed elbow; tissues should be disposed of in a closed bin and hands sanitised following sneezing/coughing.
 - o Do not share water bottles and all unclaimed water bottles will be disposed of.
 - o To speak up if a student or faculty member is feeling unwell.
- Where class payments are required, contactless or direct debit payments are encouraged. Cheques and cash will be deposited by the student or staff member (privates) in a locked mailbox.
- Studio Manager will reconcile payments once daily, washing hands immediately following reconciliation.
- Set up lobby/waiting space for Studio B
- Mark off areas for baggage and belongings to be kept as separate as possible to avoid contact with others.
- Dancers should be encouraged to come dressed for class to avoid the need for changing rooms.
- Reminder signage will be posted.

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DURING CLASS

- Students should stay 6 – 8 feet apart.
- Barres or the floor should be clearly marked to show appropriate distances. You may like to use tape to assist with this.
- Teachers should maintain a distance of 6 feet from students.
- Use of shared props and partner-work/physical contact (unless it is with members of your own household) is not permitted.
- No classes should be observed by an audience.
- If students go to the bathroom during class, they should be instructed to sanitise their hands before returning to the studio.
- No hands-on corrections.
- Exercises should not include movements that move a lot and are very dynamic (minimization of air turbulence in the room).
- Cardio exercises that cause heavy and deep breathing are to be avoided.

AFTER CLASS

- Teaching Staff must follow these procedures:
 - Wipe down and disinfect barres between every class (subject to use)
 - Wipe down and disinfect the sound equipment including CD cases
 - Ensure studios have appropriate and additional cleaning procedures of the premises in place.
 - Discard any unclaimed water bottles, hair accessories at the end of each day.
 - Regularly clean their own personal equipment including sunglasses, mobile phones, iPads and computers.
- Weekly, a professional cleaning company will come in and clean the entire premises.
- Admin staff will follow these procedures:
 - Wipe down and disinfect door handles, balustrades and other high-touch surfaces on studio premises, including the floor.
 - Ensure availability of antibacterial hand soap in bathrooms and hand sanitizer in studios and other areas.

Staff:

- Treat yourself and anyone you meet like an asymptomatic carrier. Not to be paranoid but to establish a mindset that will decrease the risk of infecting each other.
- Identify times where breathing each other's air is particularly common – think about steps, choreography requiring deeper breathing and eliminate
- Review places/times where you may touch something and then touch your dancers and vice versa – think about how you can decrease the times you touch another person or a public surface.

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- If you notice someone coughing a lot in class is this due to the increase in exercise and deep breathing or could it be something more?
- Masks should fit snugly over the nose and mouth, not be touched once placed on the face, and washed or discarded immediately after each use.
- Face mask saturated in sweat is not going to do its job.
- What kinds of movements are appropriate at this time?
- Can there be someone to demonstrate so the instructor is not exerting as much energy.

Administration:

- A management plan will be devised with clear policies and protocols for if a student becomes ill or shows signs of illness during class.
- Will keep a record of all teachers, students and staff in the building for the purposes of identifying close contact with infected persons in the event of an outbreak of COVID-19.
- Staff will undertake training to ensure cleaning, class participation and management and record keeping protocols are in place.

Cleaning:

- Clorox disinfecting wipes (an EPA pre-approved product) will be made available and visible to wipe down high touch surfaces – should disinfectant wipes not be available an alcohol solution of 70% will be available.
 - EPA approved disinfectants have an approximate '10-minute kill time' to effectively treat the virus on surfaces, meaning it is applied wet and left on the treated surface until it dries to be most effective.
- High touch surfaces should be wiped and sanitized at least 3X daily
 - before opening, mid- day and end of day
 - Main entry door handle
 - All door handles of commonly used areas
 - Drinking fountain activation levers
 - Counter surfaces
 - bathroom faucet handles and door handles
- All barre's should be wiped and sanitized after each class
- Posters for "Clean Hands" in all bathrooms
- Sanitizing gel dispensers will be available at multiple locations throughout the facility including studios, lobby areas and entrance and exits.

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- Staff will record when they sanitize high touch areas – handrails, washrooms, etc. All completed forms, waivers, attendance sheets, etc. will be kept in the staff room so they are readily available should the Department of Health inspect the premises.
- Attendance sheets will be compulsory for classes and privates. Privates will include student names and day/time of class in case the Department of Health has to track an outbreak.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

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