



Dance Safety Guidelines for In Class Learning During COVID

Classroom Space

- Limit class sizes to an appropriate number of students to maintain appropriate physical distancing and place emphasis on keeping dance rooms clean.
- Require students to wash hands frequently and use hand sanitizer when entering class.
- Require students and teacher to wear mask and have labeled personal water bottle. No sharing water bottles.
- Require students to take off their shoes before entering class (whenever possible, at the teacher's discretion); require a clean pair of socks, or designated pair of dance shoes.
- Each designated student area should be clearly marked using either gaffer tape or painters masking tape. Tape off dance floor to mark students' personal spaces with at least 6ft. squares. Preferably, use colored painter's masking tapes to mark off the entire room with Double Box pattern: a smaller box or diamond shape (2X2ft) positioned in the center of a larger box, at least 6x6 ft square.
- Tape off a teacher's instructing space and teacher's desk area.
- Open windows for air exchange between classes when possible.
- Shorten classes to allow time to clean and prepare before the next group. No more than 30 minutes of dance per class is recommended. After dance time, room should be vacated to allow rejuvenation of air and to allow for appropriate sterilization.

Instruction

- Limit instruction of dances that do not allow for physical distancing (ex. partner dance, handholding, lifts, contact improvisation, or dancing involving body contact).
- Limit or restrict floor work (per teacher's discretion).
- Hold the dance class outdoors when possible.
- Teacher demonstrates dance technique facing the mirror whenever possible.
- Use flipped learning/classroom teaching method often.
- Prohibit sharing of personal equipment, props, and other materials, except for ballet barres which may be shared occasionally. Ensure anything that must be shared is sanitized between uses. Clean immediately after class any equipment or props used by students. Personal items should be labeled and taken home daily for cleaning.
- Allow only the teacher to operate the sound system/speakers and/or allow only students who have used hand sanitizer to operate portable, smaller speakers.

Rehearsals and Performances

- Allow for distancing in backstage spaces and ensure adequate number of dressing areas.
- During rehearsals masks are mandatory, masks off only during performances. Conduct some rehearsals virtually over Microsoft Teams, Zoom, or Google Hangout, if necessary. Only one person in light and sound booth.
- Choreography / Blocking: limit contact dance and floor work; if props used, only individually labeled props.
- Costuming: minimize costuming as much as possible; no sharing, no bare feet (only allow slippers, dance shoes or socks). Wash or professionally clean all costumes before issuing to students. Offer alternate costuming option that allows students to have their own costume(s) for the school year. We advise no distribution of school costumes.
- Performance: remove intermission and concessions to shorten performance time.
- Allow for digital ticketing. Programs could be digital or printed only center page and taped on the chairs.
- Skip seats or choose family groupings of up to 10. If student body invited, every third seat should be occupied.
- Staggered entrances and exits, delineate 6 ft distance, release row by row.
- No crew or costumed students to the lobby following the performance.
- Audience has no access to backstage, booth, and back of house spaces.
- Students released in designated areas to parents, masks worn by students after performance.