



VIREO School of Performing Arts Ltd.

COVID-19 Safety Plan - 2020/21 DANCE SEASON

VERSION 1 (CREATED AUGUST 2020)

VIREO School of Performing Arts Ltd. is thrilled to be open for the 2020/21 dance season! We are so excited to welcome you into the studio safely and comfortably. The following procedures and policies are in place to protect the physical and mental health and safety of our staff and dance families. Thank you for respecting and abiding by our policies and procedures to help ensure we can provide a safe and healthy environment.

We can't wait to get back to doing what we love!

PHYSICAL DISTANCING:

- The studio displays proper signage as recommended by health authorities, as well as proper visuals to ensure physical distancing. These visuals include physical distancing markers and arrows on the floor as well as taped boxes on the studio floor 6ft apart to indicate each dancer's safe dance zone.
- We have limited our class sizes for proper physical distancing and safety based on the size of each studio room.
- The lobby and parent waiting area is closed to parents and families at this time, as is the coffee/tea/microwave/fridge station. We hope to welcome you in for a cup of coffee soon!
- VIREO staff will closely monitor dancers' physical distancing and no-contact during classes.
- For the foreseeable future, there will be no contact between dancer-dancer or dancer-instructor. We have adjusted all of our classes to be just as fun, exciting, safe, and educational without contact, spotting, and lifts.
- While we are committed to providing our dancers with guidance and supervision, it is ultimately the dancer's responsibility to adhere to physical distancing rules inside studio rooms as well as in the lobby and change room areas.
- We ask that parents and guardians please review all policies with their dancers at home before arriving at the studio.

DROP OFF/PICK UP/BETWEEN CLASSES:

- Please arrive no earlier than 5-10 minutes prior to your class start time.
- Please drop your dancer off at the studio and return at pick up.
- The studio lobby and parent area is closed at this time to limit the number of people in the studio at once. We miss having parents watching from the lobby and we can't wait for the day that this restriction is lifted! Note exceptions below:
 - For the first few weeks of classes, one parent/guardian may enter the studio with their child to ensure they are comfortable and to make a payment or check in at the front desk if needed.
 - For dancers age 6 and under, one parent/guardian may enter the studio to safely bring them into the building.
 - Once the dancer is safely inside the building and feels comfortable, they are fully supervised by VIREO staff and we ask that their parent/guardian please exit the studio.
- If dancers are taking multiple back-to-back classes, they will be asked to wash their hands and/or sanitize between classes and wait in the lobby or change room while continuing to practice physical distancing.
- For dancers who have a lengthy break between classes, we encourage parents to pick their dancer up and return at the studio for your next class where possible to reduce the number of people in the studio at once.
- However, homework areas will be available for dancers between classes and they will be taped out and physically distanced.
- Please arrive on time to pick up your dancer.
- All dancers must promptly exit the studio within 10 minutes of their class ending to limit the number of dancers in the studio at once.

STUDIO SANITIZATION:

- Full sanitization of the studio will occur between each class. Full sanitization includes use of government recommended cleaner/sanitizer on the dance floor, barres, and other commonly touched surfaces (such as door handles, light switches, music station etc.).
- Studio equipment such as acro mats, yoga mats, yoga blocks, weights, therabands, etc. will likely not be used in classes, but if a piece of equipment needs to be used, it will be fully sanitized before and after each use.
- The studio will have increased routine cleaning and sanitization of the studio before and after studio hours.
- In addition to increased routine cleaning, common areas and commonly touched surfaces/objects will be sanitized at least twice daily.
- Each studio room will be fully sanitized between each class.

- We will do our best to avoid the frequent touching of surfaces/objects by dancers. Some examples include only staff opening doors, turning on lights, touching door handles, handling music equipment etc.
- Where possible, the front door will be propped open to increase airflow and limit the number of people touching the front door handle.
- Where possible, studio room doors and windows will be opened to increase airflow.
- The studio will provide government recommended cleaner/sanitizer throughout the studio for staff to use on commonly touched objects/surfaces after use.
- The studio will provide hand sanitizer for all dancers and instructors to use.
- Dancers may start class about 5 minutes late or be dismissed about 5 minutes early from each class to ensure the instructor can fully sanitize the studio before the next class. There will be absolutely no financial compensation or discount for shortened classes for sanitization or following these policies and procedures - the purpose of this is to keep our dancers, staff, and dance families safe.

SCREENING:

- Parents and dancers are responsible to screen their dancer/themselves at home before arriving at the studio to determine their fitness for attending class.
- Each instructor and dancer that enters the studio will be screened as per Island Health and government guidelines. Screening includes staff observing students for physical symptoms as well as standard COVID-19 screening questions when necessary.
- As per these guidelines, VIREO reserves the right to send any instructor or dancer home who appears to be ill or displaying symptoms of COVID-19.

ILLNESS AND SELF-ISOLATION:

- Dancers and staff will be asked to self-isolate for 14 days after returning from another country or if they any member of their household has had a possible exposure to COVID-19.
- Dancers may return to the studio upon completion of their self-isolation, and only if they are healthy.
- While we understand that allergies are completely different than illness, please ensure allergy symptoms such as sneezing, coughing, and sniffing are treated and under control.
- If you (instructor or dancer)/your child/any member of your household is ill or has any symptoms of COVID-19, we ask that you please stay home and do not enter the studio. Please notify the studio if you your your dancer will not be attending class due to illness.

- Please notify the studio immediately if you/your child/any member of your household has possible exposure to and/or is diagnosed with COVID-19 so we can take the next steps to ensure everyone's safety.
- Although there will be absolutely no consequences for instructors or dancers who do not attend a class due to illness/COVID-19, we maintain our policy that there will be no refunds or financial compensation given from the studio to any dance family whose child is unable to attend a class.

More information regarding COVID-19 and self isolation can be found here:

<http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/Self-isolation.pdf>

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/about-covid-19/if-you-are-sick>

HYGIENE AND MASKS:

- Instructors and dancers will be asked to wash their hands and/or sanitize upon arrival at the studio, at the end of each class, after using the washroom, and before and after eating.
- Hand sanitizer will also be provided for staff and students at the doorway of each room in the building.
- Frequent hand washing and hand sanitization is encouraged while at the studio. During classes, the instructor may ask dancers to sanitize their hands in the middle of class.
- **The use of masks and gloves are optional.** As per BC CDC guidelines, masks are not recommended for this type of activity due to heavy breathing, nor are they recommended for children. However, any dancer or instructor that chooses to wear a mask and/or gloves will be treated respectfully. For safety reasons, we will encourage but not require the use of masks in all common areas of the studio as well as in studio rooms where safe and possible.
- As always, instructors and dancers must arrive at the studio well-groomed and clean, in clean dance wear, with hair neatly up off of the face.

PERSONAL BELONGINGS AND DANCE WEAR:

- Each dancer and instructor will have a separate space for their personal belongings if needed that will be sanitized after each use.
- Dancers and staff will be asked to limit personal belongings brought into the studio to only the necessities and dance-related items including dance gear and water bottles.
- If a backpack, purse, or dance bag must be brought into the studio, we suggest it be a bag that **CLOSES/ZIPS UP**. This is to ensure each dancers' belongings are contained and remain in their own space.
- In some cases, dancers will be asked to bring their dance bags and belongings into the studio room to be stored safely.

- Dancers and instructors are not permitted to leave any belongings at the studio.
- Dancers and instructors will be asked to arrive already in dance wear with hair done to limit the amount of clothing and personal belongings brought into the studio. We understand this is not always possible, but it is strongly encouraged.
- The washrooms will be available, however we encourage dancers and instructors to change and use the washroom at home.
- Wearing cover-ups or clothing over your dance wear into the studio is permitted. However, please ensure your clothing, jackets, shoes, belongings etc. remain in your personal space and in your zip-up bag if possible.

WATER BOTTLES AND FOOD:

- Please fill your water bottle up at home and bring it with you.
- Dancers who have multiple classes may fill up their water bottles in the washroom, however they must sanitize/wash their hands before and after.
- Dancers and instructors will not have access to cups and mugs, tea/coffee, or the fridge or microwave at this time.
- While snacks are permitted in the studio , dancers and instructors will be asked to wash their hands before and after they eat.
- Absolutely no sharing of water bottles or food will be permitted.

VIREO School of Performing Arts Ltd. has created this COVID-19 Safety Plan in accordance with WorkSafe BC, Island Health, and the BC CDC.

<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/covid-19-updates/covid-19-returning-safe-operation/gyms-and-fitness-centres>

<https://www.islandhealth.ca/sites/default/files/covid-19/documents/covid-gym-fitness-guidance.pdf>

<https://www.islandhealth.ca/sites/default/files/covid-19/documents/health-protection-schools-faq.pdf>

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/covid-19-and-children>

BACK UP PLANS FOR INSTRUCTION:

- We are planning for a full return to the studio as normal, however we have back up plans in place just in case.
- Should restrictions be put in place by the government and BC health authorities that affect our in-studio learning, we have several back up plans in place.
- We have worked very hard to develop a solid plan for every possible scenario, however it is not possible to predict and plan for each and every situation.
- **BACK-UP PLAN A: BLENDED IN-STUDIO AND ONLINE INSTRUCTION**
 - Students will be divided into groups and will alternate in-studio and online learning weekly. Each group will attend in-studio one week, and stay home to attend their classes via Zoom while the other groups attend classes in studio.
 - The number of groups will depend on the number of students enrolled in the studio.
- **BACK-UP PLAN B: FULL ONLINE INSTRUCTION**
 - A full schedule of classes will be held online via Zoom
 - There will be no discounts or refunds for a full schedule of classes held via Zoom.
- **BACK-UP PLAN C: MODIFIED ONLINE INSTRUCTION**
 - A modified schedule of classes will be held online via Zoom
 - Tuition will be charged at the same rate and will not be adjusted, however a credit will be given to each account for the following dance season.

BACK UP PLANS FOR THE SHOWCASE:

- We are planning on having our Showcase at the Sid Williams Theatre as normal, however we have back up plans in place just in case.
- We are unsure of the theatre's situation at this time and will need to be flexible regarding what the Showcase looks like.
- No matter the situation, we will do our best to ensure that each dancer is able to learn a routine, receive their costume, and gets a chance to perform in whatever way possible!
- We have worked very hard to develop a solid plan for every possible scenario, however it is not possible to predict and plan for each and every situation.
- **BACK-UP PLAN A: PHYSICALLY DISTANCED SHOWCASE**
 - Showcase will run as "normal" with physical distancing and following the health and safety guidelines of the theatre.
 - The number of audience members will likely be limited in the theatre, if permitted at all.
 - The Showcase may be live streamed.

- Professionally produced videos (if possible depending on COVID-19) will be available for purchase for those unable to attend the in-person show
- **BACK-UP PLAN B: STUDIO FILMED SHOWCASE**
 - Students will come in to the studio one class at a time, in hair/makeup/costume, to perform their routine. It will be filmed professionally (if possible depending on COVID-19).
 - We will do our best to incorporate dancers into the video who do not feel comfortable or are unable to come to the studio for filming
 - Routine videos will be edited into a Showcase video for parents and families.
- **BACK-UP PLAN C: VIRTUAL SHOWCASE**
 - Costumes will be sent to families or available at the studio for pick up, situation depending.
 - Routines will be performed in full hair/makeup/costume on Zoom. Everything will be recorded and edited into a virtual Showcase to the best of our ability!

BACK UP PLANS FOR COMPETITIONS/CONVENTIONS:

- Back up plans for cancelled or modified competitions are TBD, as we are waiting for information to be released from competitions.