



July 29, 2020

Dear Studio 56 Dance Center Families,

As you are probably aware, our local schools have changed course from their originally announced plans and will now hold both “face-to-face + virtual instruction” as well as “virtually only” for at least the first half of the school year.

Before I share our plans going forward, let me share this: As I have observed the state and local education departments, I have seen nothing short of an amazing group of professionals working cooperatively and diligently to manage a challenging and continuously changing situation. The local schools, along with our county officials, had an impossible task and made impossible decisions. We support the decisions that have been made and we cheer on our local schools. We will also continue to foster good communication with our friends in public education.

That said, we are going to stay on our path of gradually and responsibly opening services and learning to live in this new world.

A gradual and responsible opening has been our path since day one and we haven't changed. When the governor moved us to orange in May we could've opened back at full capacity, but we didn't. We stayed on our plan for a gradual and responsible opening.

And, we are staying with our plan for a gradual and responsible opening now. Because, for as much as we identify with, and support, our colleagues in public education, we are different:

- The public schools have 250+ “switches” that need to be adjusted each time the COVID Compass changes. We don't. We have just four.
- The public schools have students in their buildings for 40+ hours per week. We don't. Half our students are here for just 1 hour per week - that's 4% of the time they would spend in school.
- Many of our public schools have aging facilities. Our facilities are equipped with modern and massive air handling capacity.
- K-12 education is compulsory. Participation in our programs voluntary.

It is because of those differences, our comprehensive planning, as well as the CDC acknowledgment of the benefits of in-person instruction, that we stay on our path of gradual and responsible reopening. According to the CDC, social interaction among children in grades K-12 is important not only for emotional wellbeing, but also for

children's language, communication, social, and interpersonal skills. A weekly dance class supports all of those functions as well as addressing the need for physical activity and creative expression.

On August 31st we will open our fall dance classes. The next week beginning on September 9th we will begin our Academic Preschool classes. As our season gets closer to starting, we'll release more information about the details of our plans. What we've currently developed is below.

We hope you enjoy the next few weeks of summer as we ALL learn how to move forward in this new world.

Much love and Purell,

Amy Moore

Studio 56 Dance Center is a SAFER STUDIO

The health and safety of our staff, students, and families have always been our highest priority! That's why we follow the More Than Just Great Dancing!® Safer Studio Guidelines which prioritize a hierarchy of safety and wellness measures including:

1. Wellness checks for staff
2. Frequent hand hygiene
3. Enhanced cleaning procedures
4. Minimizing mixing and mingling via social distancing practices
5. Curricular and facility adjustments
6. Continuous parent communications

Please see below for the specific way we'll be applying these guidelines for the Fall:

Wellness

- All teachers and staff members will receive regular and continuing safety training as it relates to preventing community spread of COVID-19.
- All staff members are wellness checked before their shift.
- Parents are asked to not send their children to class if they, or a member of their household, have a fever or respiratory symptoms.
- Parents are asked to not send their children to class if they, or a member of their household, have tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days.

Frequent Hand Hygiene

- Employees will wash hands and/or sanitize before and after each class.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be available outside of all entrances, outside of every classroom, and inside the classrooms. Students will be encouraged to wash hands and/or sanitize before and after classes.
- Handwashing posters are posted within bathrooms and classrooms.

Enhanced Cleaning Procedures

- We have increased our cleaning frequencies and sanitation procedures of high traffic areas and high touch surfaces of the studio such as doors, viewing windows, barres, floors, counters, stereos, and bathrooms.

Minimized Mixing and Mingling

- We have made facility, scheduling, and curricular changes to reduce mixing and mingling in support of social distancing recommendations. However, we understand that unlike older children and adults, young children cannot be expected to maintain social distancing at all times.

Facility & Curricular Adjustments

- All lobby waiting areas & locker rooms will be CLOSED unless specified.
- Please bring clearly labeled water bottles. Drinking fountains will not be available.
- Dancers will bring all dance bags into the studio for changing shoes. Locker rooms will be closed. Bathrooms will be available for toileting only, but not for changing clothes.
- No food will be allowed in the studio at this time.
- Curricular adjustments have been made to eliminate prop use and hand-holding and to reduce mixing and mingling in the classroom.
- Class sizes have been modified to reflect current county health department recommendations.
- Classrooms will refrain from high fives, "ballerina hugs," fist bumps, stickers, and stamps.
- Classrooms will have staggered dismissal to allow for student transitions.