



August 5, 2021

Dear Studio 56 Dance Center and Preschool Families,

Hello from the studio where we are in full preparation mode for the start of our 21st season of "More Than Just Great Dancing!" Dance classes begin on Monday, August 30 and Little Learners Preschool classes start Wednesday, September 8th.

Part of our preparation includes a full week of teacher training, facility preparations, and, of course, a Covid-19 update.

Dance meets imperative needs for physical fitness, social-emotional health, and mental wellness. Since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic in March of 2020, Studio 56 Dance Center has provided clear communication and real-time decision making which allowed us to finish our school year with ZERO incidences of Covid-19 transmission while providing consistent access to the benefits that participation in dance classes provides.

At Studio 56 Dance Center and Preschool, we make all of our Covid-related decisions based on a variety of inputs, including local and national sources, as well as industry and studio data. At this time, students are welcome and encouraged to wear masks if they are under 12 years old or not vaccinated. Our faculty will be wearing masks when working with classes of students under 12 years old. We ask that everyone be respectful of the choices each family makes regarding masks. Our studio will remain a place for everyone to feel comfortable whether they wear a mask or not.

Our current policies and procedures include asking anyone who is feeling unwell to stay home, asking families to report any known exposures or positive cases to our office, notifying families of any exposure risk from the studio, requiring sanitizing on the way in and out of the studio, encouraging 3 ft. of physical distancing in classes, and managing enrollment flows.

We are aware that the local school districts may have different policies, which are appropriate to their facility ages, student body sizes, and length of school day. Our policies are appropriate to our facility, our class size average is 12, and over half of our student population is only in the building for less than an hour each week.

We will continue monitoring the situation and make you aware of any changes to our current policies and procedures. Potential escalation of policies may include closing the lobby to reduce traffic, further limiting class sizes, mask recommendations and/or requirements, and greater physical distancing requirements in classes.

Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,  
Amy Moore

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## **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. Frequent hand hygiene
2. Enhanced cleaning procedures
3. Minimizing mixing and mingling via social distancing practices
4. Curricular and facility adjustments
5. Continuous parent communications
6. Limited lobby access to parents

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.
- Parents should not send their children to class if they have a fever or other COVID-19 symptoms.

### 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 are CLOSED unless specified.
- Dancers will bring all dance bags into the studio for changing shoes.
- Classrooms will refrain from high fives, "ballerina hugs," fist bumps, stickers, and stamps.

Classrooms will have staggered dismissal to allow for student transitions.

## **Covid-19 Exposure Guidelines**

*What are the symptoms of COVID-19?*

- According to the Centers for Disease Control, people with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Anyone can have mild to severe symptoms. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19: Fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea.

*What if my child has been in close contact with someone who has a confirmed case of COVID-19?*

If your child has been within three feet for a total of 15 minutes from a person who is confirmed to have the virus at the studio, you will receive a notification by email and text from our Studio 56 Dance Center COVID Specialist. If the close contact was outside the studio, you need to contact us Your child will NOT need to do anything if:

1. They've had a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 90 days.
2. They have been fully vaccinated.
3. Both individuals were wearing masks at the time of exposure.

If none of the above apply, you will have four options:

1. Your child can be quarantined for 10 days (including weekends) and return to class.
2. Your child can be quarantined for seven days and receive a rapid test. If they do not have the virus after seven days, they can return to class.
3. They can attend class and will be required to wear a face mask for 10 days. You will monitor their conditions. If any symptoms arise, they must stay at home.
4. They can attend class, will be required to wear a mask for 7 days and receive a rapid test. If they do not have the virus, they can return to class without a mask.

*What will occur if my child contracts COVID-19?*

- If your child contracts the virus, he or she will not be able to attend classes and activities until 14 consecutive days pass and they are no longer symptomatic.

## **Archives:**

March 26, 2021

Dear Studio 56 Dance Center and Preschool Families,

I wanted to take a moment and send a message regarding the state-wide mask mandate that is scheduled to be lifted on April 10.

I'm sure many of us see this action as a major milestone, marking the progress our state has made over the past year. However, businesses (and all of us) are still being asked to act with appropriate caution as we move forward into these new and much-anticipated phases.

While vaccinations are progressing at a positive rate, the risk of COVID-19 transmission is still a factor to account for. As such, we are asking our staff, students, and families to continue wearing masks for all in-person classes, as well as in drop-off and pick-up procedures in and around our studio locations. This will continue until the guidelines for quarantining for an exposure begin to lift. We hope you will see the wisdom in this decision, both for the safety of your precious loved ones, as well as for our continued ability to responsibly provide a place for them to come dance, learn, and socialize.

As a point of information: While we have had a negligible occurrence of COVID-19 in our programs, our students have been able to take over 6,000 classes with zero cases of transmission within our buildings since re-opening. We consider that a major win and owe it, in large part, to your willingness and commitment in following these practices.

As a teacher, a dancer, a business owner, and a mom, I look forward to the day when this is no longer an issue any of us has to worry about. In the meantime, we will continue all of the Safer Studio™ measures that have contributed to our success so far, including providing virtual class options for those who don't feel well, regular well-checks for employees, ongoing facility cleaning, hand sanitization, and face coverings.

As always, we will continue to monitor the situation, making the physical, social, emotional, and mental health and well-being of our students our top priority.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Sincerely,

Amy Moore