

The Dance Lab

September, 2021 Fall Season

COVID-19 Precautions for In-Studio Classes

Our 2021 Fall dance schedule has gone “back to normal” in some ways, however The Dance Lab will continue to monitor the Covid patters and cases in Olmsted County and surrounding areas, and take precautionary actions if/when the need arises. We will continue to frequently clean and wipe down surfaces at the studio and encourage frequent hand washing and social distancing as much as possible. We will continue to follow Minnesota state mask guidelines/requirements, and update those if/when state requirements are updated and/or the need arises. Our Covid precautions are outlined below in two phases for the safety and well-being of our students and families.

Phase 1: Covid Precautions for the entirety of the 2021-2022 School year

Masks:

- The Dance Lab will continue to follow MN and Rochester mask guidelines/requirements and update them as needed. Before classes begin on September 13th, 2021, we will send out a notification addressing mask requirements for all students and staff members, based on current information and guidelines/requirements. We will continue to update mask requirements as needed.

Waiting Room:

- The lobby/waiting area will remain closed with the exception of parents of dancers in Pre-Dance 1 or Creative Movement, and dancers with breaks between their classes. Parents may enter the studio to drop off/pick up their students, and/or to drop in to the Dance Lab office, but we ask that parents plan to wait outside the studio while their students are in dance class. We do understand that parents like to wait in the lobby to watch their dancers on the live video monitor, and to accommodate this, we plan designate certain weeks that parents will be permitted to wait in the lobby while their children are in class, and may observe them via the video monitor. These dates will be announced after classes begin on September 13, 2021, and will be held only when our community has low a number of Covid cases, and this would be safe for our dancers and their families.

Drinking Fountain:

- The drinking fountain will remain off limits to drink from, however the dancers will be able to utilize the water-bottle function to re-fill water bottles throughout the evening. **All dancers must bring their own water bottle, and please label it with the dancers' name in case it is left at the studio at any time.**

Belongings:

- Please limit the number of personal items you bring into the studio to dance shoes, dance bags, pointe shoe bags, water bottles, and car keys. Please do not bring cell phones, purses or large dance bags, or multiple layers of clothing into the studio. If leaving these items behind, please remember to lock your cars. The Dance Lab is not responsible for lost or stolen items in or on our property. Dancers must remove their shoes upon entering the building, and may utilize the cubbies in the hallway for their dance bags and

Dropping off/picking up:

- We ask that you drop your student off no more than 5 minutes before class time, and pick them up no more than 5 minutes after their class time. Again, we are trying to avoid having students congregating in the waiting area, however we do not want them stranded outside either. It is important that you double check your class times and help your dancers avoid waiting as much as possible. We will never send children out into the parking lot unattended.

If your child is exposed to COVID:

- If your child tests positive for COVID, we ask that you notify the studio immediately. We also ask that you notify the studio immediately if your student has been exposed to someone who has tested positive to COVID, and whether or not they will be needing to quarantine. This will help us stay on top of any outbreaks that may come through our building, if any, and notify anyone who may need to get tested. In these circumstances, we also ask that any student who has been exposed to or tested positive for COVID-19 to stay home until they have been cleared to return.

Phase 2: If there is a rise in Covid cases, and Covid precautions are heightened in our community during the 2021-2022 school year, we will continue to follow all the precautions listed above AND implement the following:

Zoom

- We will continue to offer the ability for Zoom connections to all classes. If anyone (students or staff members) come into direct contact with COVID, we ask that they join class via Zoom. That being said, if anyone would like to join our classes via zoom for any other reason, you will absolutely be able to do so. Please notify the studio if you wish to enroll in any class via zoom, rather than in-person. Anyone who has received the Covid vaccination will not be required to quarantine if they have been deemed a “close contact” of someone who has tested positive for Covid.
- If cases of COVID rise in our community, and/or amongst our students, resulting in the need to cut back our class sizes, I plan to split larger classes into 2 groups and alternate weeks of joining via zoom from home, vs. in-person at the studio. If the situation worsens to a point where we need to close the studio completely, we will plan to continue our full class schedule via zoom, as we have done in the past, until it is safe to return to in-person classes.

Waiting Room:

- The waiting room area will be closed completely (with the exception of parents of age 4 and under, or dancers with breaks between their classes). Parents may enter the studio to drop off/pick up their students, and/or to drop into the Dance Lab office, but we will not permit parents in the waiting area while their students are in dance class at this time.

Phase 3: In the event that our studio will need to close due to state mandates and/or high Covid infection rates in our community we will implement virtual dance classes for 100% of our class schedule. If this plan needs to be put into place, you will receive further instruction and information on how to proceed.

The Dance Lab thanks you in advance for helping us maintain a safe environment to continue your child's passion for dance, in the best place possible to do so: the dance studio! We will make every attempt to keep the studio open, but will need your help in doing so as well, and we very much appreciate your cooperation.