

## WE ARE SO GLAD YOU STOPPED BY!

How are you doing? Undoubtedly the last few months have been topsy turvy for you and your child and we can completely empathize.

Never before have we faced such incredible challenges and planned for so many unknowns. Much of these new challenges have opened doors for new and exciting ideas as well as many necessary accommodations to our classes. In the document that follows we have outlined these changes so that we can best prepare you for what Fall at our studio looks like.

Please read the document carefully, particularly information that applies to your child's age group, so that you and your child are well prepared to begin your classes.

### READING GUIDE

We ask that as you read through the guide you do so with an understanding that we have made decisions on what we feel is best practice.

Based on the guidelines set out by the Provincial Government, the BCCDC and WorkSafe BC we have implemented these new guidelines for the safety of you, your child, other students and our staff.

We know that moving forward a "one size fits all" system for returning to regularly scheduled programming is impossible. We have done our best to ensure health and safety while also providing the quality programming that we are known for.

We appreciate your patience as we move ahead and thank you for acknowledging that changes may be necessary as more information becomes available to us. We are here for you and are keeping health and safety at the top of mind.

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## OUR RESPONSIBILITIES: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

As outlined by the BCCDC, the Provincial Government and WorkSafe BC we are legally responsible to do everything in our power to reduce the spread of infection. Many of our decisions, inconvenient as they may be, are in direct alignment with directives from these governing bodies.

We thank you for understanding our liability and following the policies and procedures outlined in this guide.

## GUIDANCE

While there has not been any guidance provided for our specific industry, (Dance Studios, Performing Arts Education) we are using the following guidance resources:

[COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 School Settings](#)

[COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for Child Care Settings](#)

[WorkSafe BC: Gyms and fitness centres: Protocols for returning to operation](#)

## IT'S OKAY TO GO SLOW...AS LONG AS WE KEEP GOING

We appreciate your understanding that for the first few classes we will all be navigating the new normal. This could mean a few minutes of instructional time are spent ensuring that everyone is following safety protocol and understands our new way of operating. We anticipate that after a little bit of practice we will see smooth transitions into and out of our classes. The world is a much slower place right now but we're moving slowly together.

## STUDIO WIDE GENERAL INFORMATION

### HEALTH AND SAFETY

Under no circumstances will students exhibiting symptoms of illness, or students whose household members have exhibited symptoms of illness 14 days prior to attending their class, be permitted to attend their class or enter the studio.

This will be a full stop, non-negotiable issue. Parents must acknowledge that they have assessed their child prior to arriving at the studio and, in some cases, may be asked to sign a waiver acknowledging that their child has been assessed.

### CLEANING

The Stage has always had very strict cleaning procedures and will continue to utilize these cleaning practices while including guidance from the BCCDC.

[Coronavirus COVID-19 Cleaning & Disinfecting Public Spaces](#)

### CLASS SIZES

All class sizes, with the exception of online offerings, have been reduced to accommodate social distancing. Performance classes will remain at 16 but classes will be divided to accommodate social distancing.

### COAT ROOM

For those used to utilizing our coat room we have moved it into our main lobby to allow for more space than our coatroom has to offer.

### BUILDING ENTRY

Parents will not be allowed to enter the building unless in emergency situations, and in that case we ask that parents be ready to wear a mask. Students will be asked to wait for their teacher at the front door prior to the start of their class. Their temperature will be taken and they will be given a pump of hand sanitizer.

### COURTESIES

Because of the lay out of our studio we are asking parents to ensure that their child uses the bathroom at home, prior to arrival at the studio. If a child needs to use the bathroom upon arrival it is best that a teacher escort them while parents wait outside. If this is not possible parents will be asked to sanitize their hands and wear a mask as they escort their child to the bathroom.



## WAITING ROOM

To ensure that we maintain social distancing and eliminate the number of people moving through the office we will not have a waiting room available in our lobby. Parents will be asked to remain outside, in their cars or return for pick up at the end of class.

We ask that whenever parents are waiting for their child that they observe social distance including in the parking lot.

## CLASS SCHEDULE

Whereas normally students would be allowed to attend their class 15 minutes prior to its start we are asking that students arrive no earlier than 5 minutes prior to the start of their class.

Teachers will help students prepare to leave 5 minutes prior to the end time so that they can be released to parents at the front door.

## CLASS MATERIALS

It is of the utmost importance that students only bring what is required for their class. Please limit bag size where possible. Absolutely no personal items are permitted with the exception of transition items which can be discussed with your teacher.

When bringing water bottles to class please ensure that they are filled upon arrival to avoid the use of the water cooler.

Please review your child's specific age group in the follow pages for further information regarding class materials.

## TEACHER SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Teachers will wear masks and/or PPE at all times when at the studio. Teachers will eliminate/reconfigure all activities that normally require close space or physical contact.

WorkSafe BC acknowledges: "It is not always possible for workers to maintain physical distance from children, and between children, when in care. Adhere to the principle of physical distancing where possible"

Child care and day camps: Protocols for returning to operation

## PERFORMANCES

Classes that are schedule to have performances will adjust the performance opportunity as safety and guidelines allow. This could mean a change from a live performance to a recorded performance, smaller audiences, or other creative solution to ensure that everyone has an enjoyable and safe experience.

# 0-18 MONTHS

## Class Set Up

- Class size has been reduced to accommodate social distancing
- Floors have been marked to indicate safe social distance spaces
- All parents and their infants will sit facing our mirrors with the instructor at the front.
- We will only be permitting 1 adult and 1 child in the classes versus our usual allowance of 2 adults and 1 child.
- There will not be a communal basket of instruments at the beginning of the class
- Hand sanitizer is available in numerous areas of the studio including in each room.
- Parents will be required to use hand sanitizer prior to entering the studio.
- Parents will not be asked to sing, this will be done by the teacher.

## Materials

- Each family will receive their own set of materials to keep and utilize each class. If you forget your instrument package for the day you will be given studio instruments that have been sanitized prior to use.
- You are asked to bring your own blanket for the class.
- You are asked to reduce the quantity of items you bring for your baby. If possible a single diaper bag is best.
- Regarding strollers; there will not be space available in our studio for strollers nor will there be space available in the common area hallway. We recognize the inconvenience of this request but must do so in order to remove as many personal items and contact surfaces as possible. Please leave as much at home that you possibly can.
- Parents will be asked to wear masks and remain in their individual marked area with their infant for the duration of their class.



## 18-35 MONTHS

As a staff we have recognized the difficulty in maintaining social distance with this age group.

As budding walkers and discoverers of new independence it will be impossible to eliminate contact points from adult to adult via toddler to toddler contact in our usual classes.

We also recognize that asking your toddler to stay in their 7ft by 7ft square will result in unhappy toddlers and thusly unhappy parents.

Because of the requirement for parents to be present with this age group we simply cannot eliminate the potential for transmission in this age category to a degree that ensures safety and have opted to keep all toddler classes online at this time.

It is our greatest hope that we can offer a trial class or two to see how the program manages but at this point in time we will be keeping everyone safe online. We will let you know about in person classes that become available as soon as we can.

Thank you for your patience. We look forward to seeing you online and know that we can still continue to engage, educate, and entertain your little one until we can see you again in the studio.

## 3-5 & 5-7 YEARS

Expectations of this age group:

As outlined by the Government and the BCCDC, the Public Health Guidance for Child Care Settings indicate that “COVID-19 virus has a very low infection rate in children. In B.C., less than 1% of children and youth tested have been COVID-19 positive. Most children are not at high risk for COVID-19 infection”. And that “for younger children maintaining physical distance is less practical and the focus should be on minimizing physical contact instead.”

The reality of attending a class for this age group is that even with our vigilant instructors social distancing is unlikely to happen every second of every class in this age group. As a teaching team we will eliminate all possible opportunities for physical contact including group games, circle dances, or other activities that ordinarily require close proximity or physical touching like hand holding.

### COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for Child Care Settings

#### Class Set Up

- Class size has been reduced to promote social distancing.
- Squares have been marked on our floors to visually indicate appropriate social distances
- Hand sanitizer is available in numerous areas of the studio including in each room.

#### Materials

- As always students will receive their own individual instruments to use in class which will be deeply cleaned with a bleach solution after every class.
- Scarves will not be used in class for the foreseeable future due to their absorbency and the inability to adequately clean, sanitize and dry scarves in between classes.
- Students who bring water bottles will be required to arrive with the bottle already full to eliminate the use of the water cooler.
- In some cases for the 5-7 year old programming students will receive a workbook to take to and from the studio but will only be used by the individual student and not shared.



## 8-10 YEARS

Expectations of this age group:

As outlined by the Government and the BCCDC, the Public Health Guidance for Child Care Settings indicate that “COVID-19 virus has a very low infection rate in children. In B.C., less than 1% of children and youth tested have been COVID-19 positive. Most children are not at high risk for COVID-19 infection”. And that “for younger children maintaining physical distance is less practical and the focus should be on minimizing physical contact instead.”

We know from our summer experience that many students of this age are able to maintain social distancing on their own, with a few helpful reminders when needed.

### Class Set Up

- Class sizes have been reduced to ensure social distancing
- Where class sizes have not been reduced class organization will see these classes being split into two or more groups for the duration of their class to ensure social distancing.
- Students will be shown their individual square for the class and will utilize this area for numerous activities during their class.
- Any activity that may require students to leave their square will be monitored by staff to facilitate as much social distancing as possible.
- Hand sanitizer is available in numerous areas of the studio including in each room.

### Materials

- Any material required to be used in class will only be used by single students and washed with a bleach solution between classes.
- Typically for these age groups materials are taken home each week and brought back to class for use in the lesson (Example: scripts)

### Masks

We strongly encourage the use of masks for students of this age category. While they may not be mandatory as of yet this could change. If you know your child can manage wearing a mask for the duration of their class we strongly encourage them to do so.

# 11+ YEARS

Expectations of this age group:

As outlined by the Government and the BCCDC, the Public Health Guidance for Child Care Settings indicate that “COVID-19 virus has a very low infection rate in children. In B.C., less than 1% of children and youth tested have been COVID-19 positive. Most children are not at high risk for COVID-19 infection”. And that “for younger children maintaining physical distance is less practical and the focus should be on minimizing physical contact instead.”

We know from our summer experience that many students of this age are able to maintain social distancing on their own, with a few helpful reminders when needed.

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- Students will be shown their individual square for the class and will utilize this area for numerous activities during their class.
- Any activity that may require students to leave their square will be monitored by staff to facilitate as much social distancing as possible.
- Hand sanitizer is available in numerous areas of the studio including in each room.

## Materials

- Any material required to be used in class will only be used by single students and washed with a bleach solution between classes.
- Typically for these age groups materials are taken home each week and brought back to class for use in the lesson (Example: scripts)

## Masks

We will be asking this age group to wear masks as often as possible in class. We recognize that some of our class activities aren't conducive to mask wearing and will make adjustments in these classes as is safe to do so and is necessary. We will ensure that social distancing and other safety precautions are utilized prior to working without masks (i.e. singing outside instead of inside)



# THANK YOU

We must send our most sincere gratitude to all the parents and students out there who have been with us and will be returning to us this fall.

We know how many adjustments you're having to make and we know that everyone is in different stages of managing these changes with as much positivity as they can muster.

We cannot wait for the day when we can safely continue to offer our classes as we have before. Everyone laughing and learning under one roof, promoting and celebrating the community that has been built in our boutique studio.

Thank you for your patience and continued support. We are all working toward the same goal, a safely navigated journey back to the best parts of our lives. Everyone is doing their best and our staff is working diligently to provide you the best experience we can while keeping everyone safe.

If you have any questions or concerns we are absolutely here to assist you.

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**BE KIND, BE CALM, BE SAFE**

– DR. BONNIE HENRY