

The Dance Masters of the Bluegrass, Chapter #40 is a organization of credentialed and experienced dance professionals. The membership met on Sunday May 4 to discuss how it can best serve the future artists within our respective studios. With the safety and health of their students in mind, the members of the Dance Masters of the Bluegrass, Chapter # 40 propose the following operational procedures for the dance education industry in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The membership agrees to:

1. Provide dance study opportunities through online and/or video classes for those students/clients who choose to stay home.
2. Re-open in phases at a reduced working capacity beginning with single/solo student work followed by upper level small groups in numbers allowable at the time of re-open in accordance with local, state, national, and CDC guidelines. Lastly, the membership would schedule younger dance groups (below the age of reason) in accordance with youth activities protocol. Class schedules will reflect extended time between classes for arrival and dismissal of students. The schedule will also reflect a staggering of classes especially in multi-room facilities so that students will not be arriving and leaving at the same time. Studios with multiple entrances and exits will utilize separate doors for class arrival and dismissal as well. Class sizes will adhere to the local, state, and CDC guidelines.
3. Conduct employee health checks daily, before every shift, screening employees for exposure to positive COVID-19 persons and recording temperatures. Sick employees should notify the designated safety officer and stay home, not returning to work until they are 3 days fever free or clear from respiratory symptoms; or 10 days from the onset of symptoms; or tested negative for Coronavirus. Any employee with a temperature reading exceeding 100 degrees Fahrenheit will be sent home until the above criteria is met. (<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/fever/symptoms-causes/syc-20352759>)
4. Require all staff and dancers to wear approved masks as they enter and exit the facility and at all times outside of the classroom areas. We respectfully request that consideration be given for dancers and instructors to remove masks while engaging in the moderate to vigorous physical activity of dance class. The ability of the student dancers to breath properly through physical activity is crucial. Taking into consideration, the potential buildup of CO2 and a decrease in blood-oxygen saturation levels potentially causing shortness of breath, and headaches. The Dance Masters of the Bluegrass membership will have planned for the strict enforcing of social distancing within the studio spaces and classes by marking off personal dance space for students within a particular class. Additionally, class plans will reflect center floor warm-ups, minimizing the use of the barres; no partnering work, or across the floor work until protocols have been relaxed. Maintaining the personal safety of all student dancers and staff by limiting contact while safely presenting and or participating in the necessary and appropriate work/exercise is critical for the well-being and injury free training of every student. The membership acknowledges the health benefits of physical activity as well as the emotional benefit of self-expression and the reduction of stress related problems.
5. Close lobbies and dressings areas. When possible, separate doors for arrival and dismissal will be utilized. Student dancers will be dropped off by parents at the door, escorted to their respective classes, by teachers or teaching assistants, maintaining the "six foot rule". At the end of class, dancers will be dismissed through the separate door, if possible. Classes will be staggered so that arrival and dismissal times will not overlap. Student dancers will be required to arrive in their dance attire. Paper bags will be utilized to hold their street shoes and dance shoes within the dance space. Studio spaces and common areas will be cleaned and sanitized as per the CDC guidelines for Communities, Schools, Workplaces. (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.htm>)
6. Mark within each classroom, personal space for each dancer. As introduced above, this personal space will be a visual reminder of proper social distancing. Instructors will be expected to strictly enforce the personal space distancing with the class participants. As stated above, with staggering of classes, employees/instructors will oversee the strict adherence of distancing students by walking to and from class adhering to the 6 foot rule. The designated safety officer will determine how many students may be present within each dance space adhering to the current local, state, national, and CDC guidelines.

7. Limit face to face meetings or contact with parents and employees by utilizing online meeting sites, emails, text messages, phone calls, and other modes of communication.
8. Provide hand sanitization stations and promote good hand washing practices for employees and student dancers before, during, and after classes.
9. Provide special accommodations for employees identified as in the vulnerable population. Options for working from home and adapting workplace policies/leave for those who need to care for ill family members will be implemented.
10. Immediately excuse ill employees from work, notifying staff, students, and families who may have come into contact with the infected employee. The studios will require the infected employee to self-monitor or quarantine until the employee is 3 days fever free or clear from respiratory symptoms. The Dance Masters of the Bluegrass membership believes that it can exceed the current guidelines in regards to contact tracking. Utilizing each studio's reservation and attendance tracking software, staff and local health officials will be able to quickly retrieve class lists with contact information for communicating to parents and students of exposure. When notified of potential exposure from an employee or student who is a PUI (person under investigation), the studio will notify staff and students who may have had contact with the PUI asking them to self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days, complying with all state and federal guidelines. Anyone known and identified as a PUI will not be allowed to enter the facility.

Additional Safety Measures

A. Travel deemed non – essential will be minimized for staff.

B. The studio owner or director will act as the designated safety officer, ensuring that all protocols are strictly followed.

Respectfully submitted by:

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