

COVID-19 RETURN TO DANCE POLICY

Principles:

- Resumption of dance activities will contribute many health, economic, social and cultural benefits to Australian society emerging from the COVID-19 environment.
- Resumption of dance activities should not compromise the health of individuals or the community.
- Resumption of dance activities will be based on objective health information to ensure they are conducted safely and do not risk increased COVID-19 local transmission rates.
- All decisions about resumption of dance activities must take place with careful reference to these Principles following close consultation with Federal, State/Territory and/or Local Public Health Authorities.
- All individuals who participate in, and contribute to, dance activities will be considered in resumption plans.
- Dance activities should limit those present to the minimum required to support the participants (e.g. one parent or carer per participant if absolutely necessary).

Prevention:

- Increased staff education about COVID-19 and infection control.
- Enhanced hygiene, including frequent hand washing, use of hand sanitisers, cleaning of objects and surfaces.
- Focus on 'Get in, Dance, Get out'.
- Social distancing of 1.5m where possible.
- Reduction of person to person contact.
- Workplace COVID-19 Safety Checklist; including cleaning, physical distancing, health hygiene and facilities.

Environment:

- Allowance in Timetable to minimise potential contact between individuals.
- It is accepted that different dance styles may have different requirements for physical contact. If physical contact is required, ensure hygiene practices are carried out.
- Cleaning surfaces and/or equipment in dance studios before and after classes where possible; barres, mats, audio equipment, doors, light switches, floor etc.
- Cleaning surfaces and/or equipment in waiting area daily; desk, chairs, door handles, light switches, kitchenette counter etc.
- Cleaning surfaces in bathrooms and change areas daily; doors, light switches, benches, counter, sinks/taps, toilet surfaces etc.
- Kitchenette equipment out of bounds; no access to microwave, fridge, electric kettle, vending machine, mugs or utensils.
- Empty and replace garbage bin liner daily.
- Hand Sanitiser at Admin Desk (studio entry/exit), and Dance Studio 1 & 2.
- Physical distancing signage prominently displayed in Dance Studios and Waiting Areas.
- Encourage all staff members, parents and teenage students to install CovidSafe App.
- Dance providers and teachers should apply a graded return to physical activities to mitigate injury risk, understanding that increased activity after a prolonged period of rest heightens the risk of injury.



Students:

- Encourage minimal use of change rooms, bathrooms and communal areas.
- Arrive dressed ready for class (if possible), exception dance shoes.
- Must bring and drink from own water bottle only.
- No eating allowed on site.
- Follow Health & Hygiene Policy; if unwell stay at home.
- Follow strict hygiene procedures for partnered dance, or dance forms requiring physical contact; use of hand sanitizer when transitioning between partners/groups.
- Minimise use of props and equipment; Rhythm Ribbons, Soft Toys, Acro Mats.
- No socialising on site before/after dance class.

Managing a suspected COVID-19 case:

- Individuals should not return to dance activities in any capacity if in the last 14 days they have been unwell or had contact with a known or suspected case of COVID-19.
- Any individual with respiratory symptoms (even if mild) should be considered a potential case and must immediately self-isolate, have COVID-19 excluded and be medically cleared by a doctor to return to the training environment.
- Any individual being tested for COVID-19, must self-isolate and discontinue practice/rehearsal/classes/performances until COVID-19 has been excluded and they have been medically cleared by a doctor to return to their work/training/performance environment.
- Tracing of close contacts will be a decision for medical authorities.

Managing a confirmed COVID-19 case:

- Local Public Health Authorities must be informed. Businesses or venues where dance activities are taking place may be closed on the instruction of the Local Public Health Authority or the Chief Medical Officer (CMO).
- Re-opening of the business or venue should only occur after close consultation with the Local Public Health Authority.
- Dancers returning to class after COVID-19 infection require full medical assessment to resumption of high intensity physical activity to minimise risk.

Conclusion:

Dance is a vital part of Australian life. It is an activity enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of children, young people and adults across all cultures, genres and styles. It supports physical and mental well-being and nurtures creativity and community amongst participants, teachers and audiences alike. Dance contributes to the broader economy through a strong supply chain that supports dance activity and practice.