



COVID SAFE POLICY – October 2021 Update

Principles:

- Dance activities contribute many health, economic, social and cultural benefits to Australian society emerging from the COVID-19 environment.
- Dance activities should not compromise the health of individuals or the community.
- 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 conducting 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 Covid Safe plans.

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.
- Social distancing of 1.5m where possible.
- Staff Covid Safe Digital Checklist to be regularly completed and recorded.
- Workplace COVID-19 Safety Checklist; including cleaning, physical distancing, health hygiene and facilities.
- Digital class rolls will be used for contact tracing and record keeping of students aged 15 years and under at the studio.
- Mandatory QR Code and proof of Covid-19 vaccination for students and adults aged 16 years and over.

Students:

- All students 15 years of age and under, may attend dance classes whether vaccinated or not, regardless of the vaccination status of their household [as per clause 2.18(3) of the NSW Public Health Order].
- 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.
- 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 sanitiser when transitioning between partners/groups.
- Minimise use of props and equipment; Rhythm Ribbons, Soft Toys, Acro Mats.



Environment:

- ALL students aged 16 years and over, and adults, MUST check in using the QR Code before entering the studio, and MUST demonstrate proof that they have been double vaccinated (or evidence of medical exemption). Please show staff your certificate upon entry, or send a copy to info@dancemagicacademy.com.au (certificates will be destroyed after vaccination status has been recorded).
- Parents, students and visitors 16 years and over to the studio who are not double vaccinated, will not be allowed on the premises [*clause 2.18 of the Public Health Order*]. This is legislated by the NSW Government (not a decision that we have made) and will be applicable until 1st December 2021.
- Parents and guardians who have not received two doses of the Covid-19 vaccination, will be required to drop-off and pick-up their children from the car park. Unvaccinated parents may either wait in their car, or go home and return to collect children when their classes finish, if you wish your children to return to dance classes before 1st December 2021.
- Everyone 12 years and over is required to wear a mask at all times when in an indoor venue, unless eating or drinking [*clause 2.17*]. Our teachers will instruct students 12 years and over that they WILL be allowed to lower or remove their mask if having difficulty breathing or in times of intense activity during class [*as per clause 2.17(d)(i) of the Public Health Order*].
- Our teachers will be allowed to lower or remove their masks, at their own discretion, if they are having difficulty breathing or in times of intense activity in class, or for the sake of communicating clearly, particularly for some portions of our Little Stars classes [*as per clause 2.17(d)(ii) of the Public Health Order*].
- Our studio is limited to one person per 4sqm, with a maximum class capacity of 20 students (16 students in Studio 1 and Studio 2). This will be reduced to 2sqm on 1st December 2021.
- 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 between each class; barres, mats, hand props, audio equipment, doors etc.
- Cleaning surfaces and/or equipment in waiting area daily; desk, chairs, door handles, light switches, kitchenette counter etc.
- Cleaning surfaces in common areas, bathrooms and change areas daily; doors, light switches, benches, counter, sinks/taps, toilet surfaces etc.
- Empty and replace garbage bin liner daily.
- Hand Sanitiser at Admin Desk (studio entry/exit), and Dance Studio 1 & 2.
- Social distancing of 1.5m is still important, especially in our Waiting and Changeroom areas, hence we are required to minimise the number of visitors at the studio at any one time.
- Physical distancing signage prominently displayed in Dance Studios and Waiting Areas.
- 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.



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Managing a suspected COVID-19 case:

- It is imperative that all staff, students, parents and visitors DO NOT enter the studio if they are unwell or show even the mildest symptoms of Covid-19.
- 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, and may only return to the studio after being cleared as negative for Covid-19.
- 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.