

## **Fall 2021 Guidelines for Safety**

Hello NSDA Families! We are so excited to start a brand-new year of dance. Please use this guide to Covid safety at NSDA.

Much of our student population is under 12 and unable to have the opportunity for vaccination from COVID-19. After discussions with our staff, reviewing guidelines from Danvers Board of Health, Massachusetts board of health, observing what Massachusetts schools are doing and discussions with health providers in our community as well as the two nurses we have on staff, we have decided to continue masking for the fall regardless of vaccination status. This includes all students, staff and parents. While I know that this will disappoint some people and thrill others it is just what we as a staff at NSDA feel is the decision that must be made.

We will continue to monitor guidelines and make changes as necessary and appreciate your cooperation as we continue to navigate all of this. When deciding on policies that in turn impact many different levels of opinion it is very difficult to know “the right thing to do” but staying on the side of caution is always the direction that we find we head in at NSDA. Our reasoning is to keep Covid-19 out of our studio. If this policy keeps us dancing and having a full season with few quarantines and an experience that is as close to pre-covid as we can, that’s what we will do. With most restrictions being dropped this is the one that we will be keeping for now.

1. We will no longer be taking temperatures at the door.
2. We ask that the first thing anyone that enters the building do is use hand sanitizer.
3. Students may come in freely without having to be called in from the car but please wait until 5 minutes before class time to come into the building to avoid overcrowding. Please leave promptly when your class is complete.
4. We will welcome parents of small children (under 8 years old) into the lobby keeping in mind that there is limited space. We are asking that in the fall when all classrooms are running that only one parent attends class with the children to avoid our lobby being overcrowded. You will also have the option to come in, get your child settled and wait in the car or run an errand if you wish. Students who need help in the restroom should have a parent available either in the lobby or in the car.
5. We ask that our dancers prepare for class by dressing at home. Although restrooms are and will continue to be open, we do recommend dancers to use the restroom at home before coming to class so as not to have to wait in line to use at the studio.
6. We will continue to offer a Zoom link for parent observation- remember to have your cameras off and your mic muted upon entering the class as an observer. If you are using the zoom observation, we ask that you wait in your car. If you will be coming into the lobby you are welcome to observe class by using one of our 4 observation television monitors in the lobby but please remember that these monitors are without sound.
7. Enrolled students are expected to attend their classes in person and fully participate in class. In the rare occasion that a student is sick and cannot attend class please contact the front desk for in person make up options. This should not be a regular occurrence.

8. All dancers will continue to put their street shoes in a cubby and bring their dance bags in the classroom and only bring what you need. Dancers' phones should be silent and in bags during class.
9. While we are happy to welcome you back to the lobby. We ask that only water be consumed in the lobby. This will help us keep our lobby clean and ready for every class that walks through the door.
10. We will open our classes to more students-however we will keep the classes gridded for the awareness of social distancing. We will be using our 4th classroom again this year! We will keep the visible gridding through December and then intend to remove the gridding and use numbers to distance in preparation for performing in the spring.
11. We will provide mask breaks to students as needed.
12. We will provide our small children with prop bags again this year to avoid the multi sharing of props. We will use some shared props in the studio that we can clean after use.