



TEACHING IN THE NEW REALITY

The classes that you deliver connect to people and are greatly valued by your students. Whilst we need to adapt to teach within the new socially distanced reality, we also need to remind ourselves that the studio is a special space that our students come to for a distinct experience and we should safeguard this experience as much as possible.

Welcoming students into the space for the first time will require:

- Time to catch up with them after a time apart
- Time to get them comfortable with the new space set up
- Time to understand how the class structure will run
- An understanding of any impact lockdown may have had on your students

Focus on your students and your interaction with them

- This is a time when a creative approach is required and a chance to re-visit different teaching styles
- Set achievable artistic goals and try not to get distracted with the health and safety guidelines

If you cannot accommodate a full class in the studio you may opt for others in the class to participate via live stream video and alternate who actively participates from class to class. If so, before broadcasting, you will need to ensure you have the media permission forms completed by students in attendance.

Be clear about how you wish to work with your students, in regard to how you will communicate, entering the room, groupings, interactions with each other, what they need to do if they need to be excused during the class etc.

Maintaining spacing

- Teachers should maintain the mandated distance from students at all times.
- Even though working in the studio, you may find that you have to adjust your classes so that there are fewer exercises that travel in all directions.
- All exercises that require holding hands should be done without holding hands. Partner work should be separated as required by any distancing regulations.
- There are dances within each grade that do not require props.
- For stationery centre work, make sure your students can maintain safe minimum distancing in all directions. If they are engaging in very aerobic activity, consider increasing the spacing by 1 metre.
- When travelling air droplets become suspended, if you are travelling right behind someone you are in the slipstream where these droplets are suspended. Less contamination can occur if working side by side with someone, rather than behind them. When travelling you will need to increase distancing more, maintaining a 4-5 metres separation; so consider the practicalities of your space when planning classes.
- Make sure students know where to go to after smaller group activities so they do not form in groups.

After Class

Allow additional time at the end of class to wrap things up and make sure that dancers have everything they brought with them.

Timetables

Timetables will your need adjustments to allow for new social distancing measures. Things to consider as you create your timetable are:

- Know how many students you can accommodate, and make sure you keep your cohorts together in the same groupings
- Allot time to enter your building and for any pre-entry screening to take place
- Plan your class to allow more time for students to demonstrate exercises in smaller groups and to change over between them, as may be required by distancing requirements
- Consider and adapt your class plans to factor in the mental and physical impact of lockdown on your students (e.g. allow more time for explanations and instructions, and to slowly rebuild technique)
- If running multiple studios in the same building stagger classes to avoid congestion and ensure distancing.
- Allow time for entering and exiting your classes and for making sure that one class is out of the space before the next can be let in
- Allow time to clean the studio between classes

- If you have students who attend multiple times a week, or more than one class a day, consider how many class places you will have available and the benefits of keeping cohorts together to diminish the chance of cross-infection

Communication

- Before staff, students and parents even arrive at the studio for the first time, it is vital that you have already communicated the new measures, processes and policies. With staff in particular, you should allow time to discuss the new measures, to ensure that they understand them and will adhere to them. This is also a great way to get feedback and to ensure that nothing has been missed
- It is best to feed information in small easy to manage packets that they will read or listen to
- You know your community the best so use methods of communications that work best
- Communicate with your students clearly demonstrating all the actions you have taken and measures you have in place to allay any fears or concerns about returning to the studio
- Communicate our safety and health plans
- Explain to parents and students the new procedures in place for classes and any timetable adjustments
- Adjust your Terms and Conditions where necessary to take into account new realities

Teacher and staff considerations

- Give all teachers and staff a chance to feedback on the plans and to ask questions, and to offer suggestions
- Staff should undertake training to ensure cleaning, class participation and management and record keeping protocols are in place at all times