

# SBDS Covid-19 Policy and Procedures



## Updated January 2021

Our Covid -19 Policy is designed to control the studio environment for staff, students and parents of SBDS, to ensure the safety of all our dancers and their families.

Our protocols and procedures are in place to remove/ mitigate the risk of either catching or spreading the infection both within our studio community and to or from the wider community.

Safety is paramount, and we ask everyone to carefully read and follow the following:

### Establishing routines to control risk while continuing to deliver excellence in dance education:

- Each class will have two teachers – one will be the Covid Marshall, to ensure and supervise student handwashing, sanitising and other Covid-19 procedures are followed, as well as bringing students into and out of the studio, marking rolls and entry into studio contact lists, and sanitising all equipment prior to next class. The other teacher will be in charge of teaching and continue implementing our excellent dance programs
- All barres, door handles, yoga blocks and other equipment will be disinfected between each group. Toilets and bathroom sink will be disinfected between each class.
- The floor will be disinfected with a steam mop between different groups of students.
- Practical measures will be implemented to ensure physical distancing. Dancers will be spaced at least 1.5 m at the barre and on the floor.
- Government DHHD rules stipulate 4m square allowance per person.
- Parents may participate in toddler dance classes with our under 3 years dancers. In all other age groups, parents may not enter the studio space, apart from new students, whose parents may be inside the premises for up to 10 minutes.
- Masks are no longer deemed necessary by DHHS, but are optional for staff, students and parents, both in class or between classes.

### When NOT to attend the Studio:

- Students who have had any contact with a person diagnosed with Covid-19, or who has tested positive to Covid-19 may not attend the studio until a negative test result and medical clearance and has no symptoms of illness. Students may also not attend the studio while any person in their household who has shown signs of illness is awaiting Covid-19 test results.
- Students with symptoms of illness, including mild symptoms, such as fever, sore throat, cough, upset stomach, runny nose, shortness of breath, dizziness or other symptoms of illness may not attend the studio. In accordance with DHHS even if you show only mild symptoms, you need to get tested, and may not return till after a negative Covid-19 result.
- If you attend a primary or secondary school, kindergarten or childcare centre that has been closed down due to a case of Covid-19 you may not attend the studio till your school is reopened, regardless of whether you had any contact or not.
- If you are unable to attend the studio as a Covid-19 precaution, you can make up the lesson any time throughout the year.

## Procedures for Students, Parents and Classes:

- Upon arrival, school-age students will be met and greeted downstairs at the entry to the stairway of the studio by one of our teachers. Unless it is raining, this will be outside. The teacher will squirt our hospital-grade sanitiser into the students' hands (thus omitting students all touching the sanitiser bottle) and will be led into their class by the teacher.
- For those who prefer, (eg skin sensitivities), handwashing of 1 minute can be used on arrival instead of sanitiser, or students' own sanitiser used.
- Wearing of masks is no longer required by government rules for any dance or exercise classes, however masks may be worn if you prefer.
- Any parent or adult bringing dancers to the entry of the building or into the studio must no longer wear a mask, but may do so at their preference.
- Parents of new students may enter the studio with them and stay a few minutes till student is settled. Parents of pre-schoolers may bring students upstairs and to the studio entrance. New students, in first few lessons, and pre-schoolers may be collected from upstairs if needed. Please wait, spaced apart in the foyer to collect your child. Parents of toddlers are able to enter as always. Any adult entering must sanitise (sanitiser on table just inside entrance) and check in if staying 10 or more minutes.
- All other parents and other adults may not enter the studio at any time. This is to ensure we don't go over our maximum Covid-safe numbers and we keep risks of infection to an absolute minimum.
- At the conclusion of the lesson, students will sanitise hands once again, with the teacher once again handling the sanitiser bottle. The teachers will bring students down the stairs, where they will be met and collected by their parents.
- Parents of students in the last class of each day may pick up students from upstairs because our deepest cleaning of all floors and surfaces will occur between the last class each day and the first class the next day.
- Because of the new protocols for parents, our Principal will be even more available to talk or message, when not teaching, re your child's progress etc on 0419521005, and we encourage your involvement and questions.
- Students are asked to bring no drinks apart from water in a labelled reusable bottle. No disposable bottles may be left in our bins. Please note – for safety reasons we are no longer able to provide glasses of water for those who forget their water bottles.
- Students at the studio for 2 hours or less may not bring any food into the studio. Students at the studio over two hours may bring lunch or evening snack as required in a reusable container, but must not leave any food rubbish, plastic or paper in the bins.
- Any child with any symptoms of illness, will be separated from the group and parents contacted to immediately collect the child.
- Children will be social distanced to 1.5 m at the barre and on the floor at the studio. Apart from our youngest dancers, this is very easy for them – they do so when they run into exam and self-space throughout the exam. As dancers they are also aware of spacing in choreography, and we have already been enforcing 1.5 m in late Term One, with no issues.
- Students with medically diagnosed asthma or hayfever – please ensure this is recorded on your enrolment form, and you will not be sent home for any usual coughing, wheezing etc, assessed on a case by case basis. Please ensure you have any puffer, spacer etc you need. Please see us to discuss your child's needs. Please ensure coughing and sneezing is into elbow.

- Please arrive, where possible, within 10 min of class start time, and be there to pick up within 10 min of class finish time.
- Only students enrolled in a class may be on the premises. Please do not leave siblings who have finished their lesson to wait for their brother or sister in classes (15 min wait time only allowed by request to the Principal.)
- It is vital that you text us if your child is not attending a lesson, so our staff are not needlessly waiting at the entrance for your child.

### **Ensuring Our Staff are Confident, Qualified and Well-prepared to Deliver Our Corona Virus Policy:**

- Staff includes Principal, Vice-Principal and entire teaching faculty.
- All staff have successfully completed the Department of Health COVID-19 Infection Control Training Program. Certificates are available to view at the studio.
- All staff will, as implemented in 2020, practice and model safe practices such as correct handwashing, sanitising their hands upon entry or exit from studio, between classes, and again before sessions such as acro which require some contact.
- All staff will be involved in disinfecting barres, doorhandles and equipment between classes
- All staff will be involved in supervising student handwashing and hand sanitising
- Staff will not attend the studio if they have any illness including fever, cough, sore throat, colds, runny nose, shortness of breath, or feeling ill in any way. Another teacher will cover their classes. Staff who show any symptoms of illness must have a negative Covid-19 test before returning to the studio, or be cleared by a doctor, if medical advice deems a Covid-19 test is not necessary.
- Staff will not attend the studio for a period of 14 days or longer (as government guidelines) if they have come into contact with anyone with a positive Covid-19 diagnosis and must complete a negative Covid-19 test.
- Staff will space children out in their lines at the barre and in the centre according to social distancing of 1.5 m
- Staff will be responsible for bringing students into the studio from outside the main studio entrance and handing over to parents after the lesson. As there are two teachers allocated to each class, this will not interrupt the running of the lesson.
- As always, we will be aware of children's emotional well-being and we will show support and care as they cope with their changed world.

Thank you everyone for your support and understanding of the need for this stringency. If we all work together, we can keep our studio a safe place for our students, their families, and the wider community in which we interact, while maintaining our happy, motivated environment, close bond within our studio family, and high standard of technique and performance skills in dance.