



# THE COLLEGE OF DANCE

## COVID-19 RESPONSE PLAN, STATEMENT, POLICY & RISK ASSESSMENT

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# COVID-19 RESPONSE PLAN & STATEMENT

# THE COLLEGE OF DANCE

## COVID-19 RESPONSE PLAN & STATEMENT

The COVID-19 Response Plan details the policies and practices necessary for the return of the College of Dance to the Studio.

**Note:** This plan is a live working document and it should be reviewed on an ongoing basis and amended to take into account new guidance from [www.Gov.ie](http://www.Gov.ie), [www.dbei.ie](http://www.dbei.ie), [www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie), [www.hpsc.ie](http://www.hpsc.ie) and [www.hsa.ie](http://www.hsa.ie)

This COVID-19 policy outlines our commitment to implement the plan and help prevent the spread of the virus. The policy will be signed and dated by a College of Dance Director & the Artistic Directors. This policy will be brought to the attention of our teachers and students.

The College of Dance is committed to providing a safe and healthy workplace for all our students and faculty. To ensure that, we have developed the following COVID-19 Response Plan. All teachers and students are responsible for the implementation of this plan and a combined effort will help contain the spread of the virus.

### **The College of Dance will:**

- Continue to monitor our COVID-19 response and amend this plan in consultation with our team
- Provide up to date information to our faculty and students on the Public Health advice issued by the HSE and Gov.ie
- Display information on the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and correct hand-washing techniques
- Provide a COVID-19 officer who are easily identifiable and put in place a reporting system
- Inform all teachers and students of essential hygiene and respiratory etiquette and physical distancing requirements
- Adapt the studio to facilitate physical distancing
- Keep a contact log to help with contact tracing
- Have all teachers and students undergo an induction / familiarisation briefing
- Develop a procedure to be followed in the event of someone showing symptoms of COVID-19 while at The College of Dance
- Provide instructions for teachers and students to follow if they develop signs and symptoms of COVID-19 during work
- Intensify cleaning in line with government advice

All teachers and students will be consulted on an ongoing basis and feedback is encouraged on any concerns, issues or suggestions. This can be done through the COVID-19 officer.



Matthew Duffy  
Chairman



Samantha Lyons  
Artistic Director



Bernadette O'Rourke  
Artistic Director

Date: 1st August 2020

# COVID-19 RISK ASSESSMENT

# COVID-19 POLICY

# THE COLLEGE OF DANCE

## COVID-19 POLICY

### THE COLLEGE OF DANCE COVID-19 POLICY

The virus that causes COVID-19 can infect people of all ages. While the risk of serious illness or loss of life is greatest in those 65 years of age or older with pre-existing health conditions, persons in every age group can become infected with COVID-19 and some may become seriously ill or even die.

With rare exceptions, COVID-19 is not claiming the lives of our children. However, a child with a mild or even asymptomatic case of COVID-19 can spread that infection to others who may be far more vulnerable.

COVID-19 is spread from person to person through contact that is close enough to share droplets generated by coughing, sneezing, speaking, and even just breathing. COVID-19 can also be spread by touching objects where contaminated droplets have landed followed by touching of mouth, nose, or eyes. Due to this easy manner of transmission, an infant, child, young person or adult who is infected with COVID-19 can spread the infection to others they come in close contact with such as members of their household. Infected persons with mild or even no symptoms can spread COVID-19.

Due to these risks, the College of Dance has guidelines such as the ones listed below to mitigate the risks of COVID-19 transmission.

Parents should monitor the health of their children and not send them to participate if they exhibit any symptom of COVID-19. Teachers should do the same. They should seek COVID-19 testing promptly and report results to the College of Dance given the implications for other students, teachers and families. Students and teachers should protect any vulnerable persons in the same household with whom they come into frequent, close contact. They should also be aware of the enhanced risks for those age 65 or over and/or with compromised immune systems for 14 days after such frequent, close contact.

### DEALING WITH A SUSPECTED CASE OF COVID-19

This details our procedure to be followed in the event of someone developing the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 while at The College of Dance.

We have assigned a COVID-19 officer and put in place a plan to manage this situation, and provided them with information on how to do this safely. We have also identified and marked an isolation area(s) to be used to isolate the affected person from the rest of the College of Dance and procedures to be followed to enable them to safely leave the premises.

### CLEANING GUIDELINES AFTER THE PRESENCE OF A SUSPECTED CASE OF COVID-19

The following are recommendations for cleaning/disinfecting a room after the presence of a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19. As soon as the suspected case has left the room keep the door to the room closed for 1 hour. Carefully clean all surfaces and furniture in the room with a neutral detergent, followed by decontamination of surfaces using a disinfectant effective against viruses. Disposable cleaning cloths are recommended. Open the window in the room while cleaning is in progress.

Staff responsible for cleaning after a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 person was present should wear disposable single use non-sterile nitrile gloves and a disposable plastic apron and should avoid touching their face during the cleaning procedure. Do not allow anyone to use a potentially contaminated room until it has been cleaned/disinfected, and all surfaces are dry.

## KEY COVID-19 SAFE CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE COLLEGE OF DANCE

**COVID-19 Officer:** The College of Dance has appointed a COVID-19 Officer to oversee all aspects of the COVID-19 risk management plan including development from appropriate resources, implementation, monitoring, updates/changes, communications, training, regulatory compliance, and answering student, parent and teacher questions about COVID-19 concerns.

### Contact Tracing:

- Keep accurate roles for all classes and teachers.
- Update contact details for all students and teachers, with permission to pass these onto the authorities for the purposes of contact-tracing if needed.
- Where there is a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 in the studio the College has established a procedure for notifying parents in the event of a confirmed case at the studio.

### Social Distancing:

- Limit the number of people in the studio at any one time to comply with current gathering limits
- Communicate with staff, students and parents that social distancing must be maintained at all times.
- All studio spaces must meet social distancing occupancy requirements.
- Refrain from partner work, limit use of shared equipment such as barres, props, etc.
- Scheduling of a 30 minute cross over time period between classes so students can leave the studio, before the next group comes in.
- 2 Meter Rule: Students and Teachers will practice social distancing of 2 Meters whenever possible, especially in common areas.
- Social Distancing Monitors: Teachers will help maintain social distancing between students.

### Sanitation and Hygiene:

- Clean and sanitise hot spots/high touch points like barres and door handles.
- Provide hand sanitizer to all students and teachers upon entry and exit
- Encourage hand hygiene and ensure all bathrooms have adequate soap available.
- Encourage students to bring their own water bottles from home.

## THE COLLEGE OF DANCE WILL

- Encourage students not to congregate at the beginning or end of class. Students to arrive as close as possible to the class start time.
- Students will be asked to bring their own water bottles, towels and where possible personal equipment, and instructed not to share these with others. Personal equipment should only be shared with people from the same household. All personal equipment will be brought home by each student every day.
- Students will be asked to wash hands on arrival, if possible, or to use hand sanitiser.
- Individual equipment provided for students (Barres) will be cleaned and sanitised before and after each class. Time will be scheduled between classes to enable thorough cleaning and sanitisation to be conducted.
- Sharing of equipment will be avoided wherever possible. Where necessary, equipment will be cleaned and sanitised between use.
- Students will be spaced appropriately to maintain a minimum 2 metre physical distancing throughout the class.
- Students will be encouraged to adopt good respiratory hygiene, covering their nose and mouth when they cough or sneeze, and using a tissue which is immediately disposed of.
- All students and teachers will be advised to stay home if they feel unwell, and to consult their GP. If a student or teacher becomes unwell during the class, they will be isolated from everyone and return home as soon as possible.
- The College of Dance will maintain a record of all students and teachers for all classes, with contact details. This will help to facilitate contact tracing in the event that someone becomes ill with COVID-19.
- Students and teachers will have their temperature checked with non-contact forehead thermometer before they enter the studio. Any reading of 38.0°C. or higher should result in a denial of entry.

## LEGIONELLA

Legionnaires disease is a potentially fatal form of pneumonia. People may become infected when they breathe in tiny water droplets contaminated with elevated concentrations of Legionella bacteria. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Art Centre buildings have been closed, or their use restricted. This can increase the risk of Legionella growth in the water systems and associated equipment including evaporative air conditioning systems, water fountains, showers, taps, toilets, humidifiers in food cabinets and other equipment if the water systems have not been managed adequately. Before reopening, control measures will need to be in place to avoid the potential for Legionnaires disease.

The key to preventing Legionnaires disease is to make sure that building owners and managers maintain building water systems in order to reduce the risk of Legionella growth and spread. There are no vaccines that can prevent Legionnaires' disease. Legionella is a naturally occurring bacteria in freshwater water that can be harmful when it grows in man made plumbing systems. Stagnant water can create conditions that increase the risk for growth and spread of Legionella and other biofilm-related bacteria, according to the CDC. Legionnaires' disease is a very serious type of pneumonia caused by Legionella bacteria.

Legionnaires disease has symptoms very similar to pneumonia and COVID-19 that include a cough, shortness of breath, fever, muscle aches, and headaches. Legionnaires disease can be associated with other symptoms such as diarrhoea, nausea, and confusion. Symptoms usually begin two to 10 days after being exposed to the bacteria.

Legionnaires disease is caught through breathing in air containing the Legionella bacteria in an aerosol that may not be visible. Aerosols can be formed from fine droplets generated from water containing the bacteria by, for example, running a tap or shower, flushing a toilet, or from bubbles rising through water in a spa pool. The bacteria can live and multiply in water at temperatures of 20°C to 45°C. They can be found in the natural environment such as rivers, lakes and moist soil but usually in low numbers. Higher numbers can occur in inadequately maintained man-made water systems. Legionella bacteria do not appear to multiply below 20°C and are killed within a few minutes at temperatures above 60°C. They may, however, remain dormant in cool water and multiply when temperatures reach a suitable level.

Further advice on the prevention of Legionnaires' disease following building closures due to COVID-19 Pandemic is available at: [www.hpsc.ie](http://www.hpsc.ie)