

COVID-19 Health and Safety Procedures

Welcome home! The faculty and staff here at MW have certainly missed all of our students and their families. It is our hope that we will once again enjoy the many blessings that participating in the arts can provide in a safe and healthy manner. To make our studio as safe as possible it will take all of us working together: Teachers, students & parents. We **all** have a very important role to play in creating a healthy and happy environment. Here are the new guidelines that we have established that will help us to achieve not only a safe return to the studio, but also a successful and healthy future. Yes, these guidelines may seem a bit restrictive but they are totally worth it if they allow us to be together again. As the situation improves we hope to remove some of the safeguards and restrictions. **This will only be possible if we all work together!**

Please read the following policies and procedures carefully as all students, parents, staff, and faculty members will be expected to follow protocol.

1. Everyone, age 5 and older (updated on Sept 2, 2020), who enters the studio is expected to wear an appropriate face covering. This rule is in compliance with Governor Cooper's executive order issued on June 24, 2020. Masks will be worn during dance classes except for those who have a medical condition or that prohibits them from wearing a face covering. Parents, if you prefer your dancer NOT wear a mask please communicate this with your child's teacher and/or the studio director.
2. The studio has been thoroughly cleaned-top to bottom, side-to side! New flooring has been installed in the "Stage Door" dance room, and socially distanced markers have been placed throughout the building. Hand sanitizer is available in all dance rooms and the lobby. We will be cleaning each dance studio between classes when the membership of the class changes.
3. The waiting areas are closed. Parents and siblings are asked to wait in their cars or outside instead of inside the studio. (This rule is in compliance with the current mass gathering guideline.) The only exception to this rule is for caregivers of our 2.5-4.5 year olds who may choose to wait in the lobby at 6' social distancing. Please limit to one caregiver per child.
4. Each dance studio has its own door: "First Act" (the little studio in the back) has a door leading to the back parking lot; "Stage Door" is adjacent to the front double doors; and "Out of the Box" (the stage room) has a doorway leading down the ramp and into the back parking lot. These are the doors that students will use when entering and exiting their assigned class studio. Parents or anyone needing front desk access will use the front double doors.
5. Parents are asked to conduct their own health assessment of their dancer prior to arriving at MW. This includes temperature screening and discussing all Covid-19 symptoms. If your dancer has a temperature or exhibiting any symptoms, please do not come to the studio.
6. Dancers who may have been exposed to Covid-19 are asked to stay at home until they are released by their physician or the Department of Health and Human Services.
7. Staff members and teaching assistants will be health screened daily and will not be allowed to come to work if they have a fever or show symptoms of Covid-19.
8. Dancers are not allowed to bring food into the studio. There will be no eating in the building.
9. The lobby water fountain has been closed until further notice so students are asked to bring their own water bottle. Since there is not a fountain for refilling the bottles, students should consider bringing a larger bottle than they normally would. Please be sure to label all personal belongings!
10. Students are not permitted to access the building early. Please wait in your car or outside (socially distanced from others) until the teacher opens the door for your class.

11. Temperature screenings will be done as students enter the classroom and dancers will be required to sanitize their hands. Late arrivals will only be allowed into class if the instructor is able to physically conduct class while simultaneously doing a temperature check and logging the information. Please be on time!
12. Dancers should arrive already dressed in their dance attire. We prefer that dancers do not change in the bathroom unless it is completely unavoidable. Please wear a cover-up to and from the building. Makeshift changing areas will be available for anyone who absolutely cannot dress prior to arriving at the studio.
13. The young children's combo classes will always begin in tap shoes and parents are asked to have those on their little dancer when they bring them to the door. Dancers ages 4+ are going to be asked to change into their own ballet shoes without assistance (as much as possible) so please practice this at home.
14. Teens and youth should limit the gear that they bring into the studio to include only their dance shoes, a water bottle, phone, hair ties, and any small health personal items (hand sanitizer, contact lens drops, Tylenol, etc.). Please leave all school backpacks, sleeping bags, optional wardrobe items, etc. at home.
15. Upon entering the classroom, students will be directed to stand on a colored X inside of a 6x6 "disDance" box. Students will have a coordinating X around the perimeter of the room where they are to leave their water bottle and dance bag. Drink breaks will be directed by the teacher and done one color at a time to ensure social distancing is maintained.
16. Younger dancers will be expected to remain in their disDance box throughout class. There will be no "across the floor" exercises for the time being. We will resume such exercises as conditions allow.
17. There will be no use of community props at this time. Dancers in our younger classes will receive their own "prop box" at registration and they should bring his/her prop box to class each week. New props may be added throughout the year and once those are distributed by the teacher they become property of the dancer.
18. Parents or students who need assistance at the front desk should observe the social distancing markers on the floor. A protective plexiglass shield has been placed on the counter to provide extra protection between staff and customers. Payments can still be made at the front desk in the form of cash, check, or credit card.
19. The lost and found has been removed. Anything left at the studio will be thrown away at the end of each day. Please call the office if you think you have left something behind!
20. Anyone needing to purchase dancewear or shoes should schedule a private fitting: Call (828) 565-0381 to schedule a convenient time. All shoes and merchandise that is tried on and not purchased, will be sanitized following the fitting so that the next customer can feel comfortable in trying on merchandise.
21. Musical theater is suspended at this time; however, we can safely hold acting classes and a deep-dive music foundations class which will be extremely beneficial to older students who are thinking about pursuing musical theater in college or those who would like to make themselves more competitive in the casting world.
22. At this time we are not announcing any scheduled performances; however, the director and staff will continue to develop ideas, outlines, and hopeful plans for winter shows, spring recital, class performances, etc. Our hope is that we will soon be able to share in performances with all of our MW family!

Dancers and parents, please sign below indicating that you have read the COVID-19 safety protocol and that you will follow the guidelines and restrictions.

Dancer's signature

Date

Parent's signature

Date