



## **COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions at BDC Theatre College**

### **How will I know the building will be clean and safe to use?**

The building will be cleaned as per the Government Guidance related to cleaning of non-healthcare settings. This will be done on a daily basis as a minimum.

Any 'touch surfaces' (ballet barres, piano's and music systems) will be cleaned before and after each use. Staff will be responsible for ensuring this is done.

We have removed any non-essential items and soft furnishing items from teaching spaces as these are 'hard to clean' items.

( <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings> )

### **What if I become unwell during a session?**

If you develop symptoms of COVID-19, including a fever, a continuous cough, flu like symptoms or loss of taste or smell, you will be asked to leave immediately and return home, avoiding public transport.

Following this the room will be 'deep cleaned' prior to usage and if necessary further sessions will be suspended to allow for this enhanced cleaning.

Further to this, if you are unwell, the college will maintain regular contact with you on a mutually agreed basis as little or as often as you want.

If you suffer an injury or other illness that requires physical contact from a first aider, gloves and a mask will be utilised.

### **I think I'm in an at Risk Group, what do I do?**

As per the Government guidance if you feel you are in an at risk group and have received communication from a health care professional (GP or NHS) you should follow their guidance.

Contact George to discuss how we can manage your return and ensure you remain safe and well.

## **How can we socially distancing in a dance/singing class?**

To ensure safety, students will enter via a single entrance for that teaching space and exit via another. This helps to prevent any crossing of people and direct contact. We will operate a one way system for staff and students. All communal areas are closed. You will be expected to arrive prepared for your session as no changing space will be available.

All staff and students will abide by the 2 metre social distancing rule as a minimum.

In practical dance classes a 'box' will be outlined indicating the space in which you will take part with the member of staff not entering this box at any time. Direction and corrections will be given from a distance.

In any singing lessons/vocal sessions, these will be conducted at a distance of 10 metres, this is well in excess of the recommended guidance of 2 metres. Whilst the 2 metre rule is based upon droplet formation and transmission and this does not exceed 2 metres. We recognise staff and student concerns and have increased this distance, to reduce the risk further.

Students will be emailed any sheet music or crib sheets. Students are expected to either provide their own hard copy or have the information available in a digital format that is suitable for the class being undertaken.

We are staggering start and finishing times of sessions to further promote social distancing.

## **I want to wear gloves and a mask to my session, can I do this?**

The routine use of gloves and masks is **not** recommended by Public Health England or the Government. Gloves can be a barrier to effective hand hygiene and the focus should remain on good hand hygiene and social distancing.

Similarly, masks are not recommended, but should be used where social distancing is not possible, for example on public transport or other crowded spaces.

Alcohol gel will be provided in all teaching spaces and wipes, if you feel you want to wipe down any surfaces.

## **I live with someone who has developed symptoms, what do I do?**

As per the Government guidance you should follow the 14 day isolation period. Inform the college immediately and do not attend. More information is available from the government website regarding this.

( <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus> )

## **I'm really anxious about coming back to college and getting COVID-19, what do I do?**

These are challenging times for everyone, but know that everyone is doing everything they can to keep you safe. If you find your own mental health is suffering, please speak up and seek support, either through your GP or college staff can signpost you to school services.

## **What if things change and the infection rate goes up?**

This is an ever changing situation and we are involved in daily updates from the government and the council. This is a fluid assessment based on the current risk and it might be in a few weeks things change and we need to increase our measures or potentially close again. There is also a possibility we may be in a position to relax some measures, but this will not be done without careful consideration of the information available to us and the government guidance.