

Since the closing of Atlanta Ballet Centre for Dance Education activities in mid-March due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19), the Centre has been focused on the health and safety of all students, faculty and staff as our highest priority.

Atlanta Ballet has created a best practices plan for a phased-in return to classes and administrative activities. The following information is in consultation with medical experts, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), state and local officials, and other guidelines that have been researched in our particular field of operation. These guidelines were developed in concert with our colleagues from schools across the nation.

## SAFETY AND SANITATION

The following procedures will take place before opening all buildings and continue daily once the buildings are open:

- All locations will go through a thorough cleaning and disinfecting before the start of classes.
- Each location will have sanitizing stations as you enter the building and in the hallways of the studios.
- Staff will spray the barres with disinfectant before class begins and prior to going in center.
- All studios will have hand sanitation and anti-bacterial gym wipes.
- Bathrooms will be cleaned and sanitized frequently.
- All touched surfaces and door handles will be wiped down by staff and faculty throughout the day along with the regular cleaning schedule.
- Floors will be cleaned regularly.
- Safety shields and/or masks will be required for faculty and staff.
- Lobby, break room, dressing rooms and showers will be closed.
- Water fountains will be closed for common use. Students should bring water for the day.
- Six-foot physical distancing will be maintained throughout the day in all common areas.



Photo by Kim Kenney.



Photos by Kim Kenney.

## DROP-OFF AND ARRIVAL PROCEDURES

Signage will be displayed at the entrance of all locations with regards to COVID-19, describing sanitation procedures, social-distancing guidelines and areas with limited or restricted access. In addition, everyone must adhere to the following:

- Follow the drop off and arrival maps specific to each location.
- All parents will be asked to be on the alert for any symptoms of COVID-19 in the family unit and keep the student at home if showing any signs of illness.
- Students should arrive wearing their dance attire.
- Only students will be allowed to enter the building. A staff member will greet the students as they arrive.
- Temperature will be taken upon arrival along with a symptom screening. Two daily questions will be asked:
  - Have you been in close contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the last 14 days?
  - Have you experienced any cold like symptoms in the past 72 hours?
- The parent should not leave until after temperature is screened. A green flag will be raised when your student has been admitted.
- If student's temperature is 100.4° or above, the student will be sent home immediately. A red flag will be raised if your student must go home.
- The decision to admit a dancer to the building rests solely with the assigned Centre staff member.
- Students will be escorted out of the building by a staff member at the end of the day.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be utilized once students enter the building.
- Staff will sign students in and out of the building.
- **Visitors will not be allowed in the building at any time.**

Michael C. Carlos Dance Centre | 1695 Marietta Boulevard NW | Atlanta, GA 30318

Buckhead Centre | 4279 Roswell Road, Suite 703 | Atlanta, GA 30342

Virginia-Highland Centre at Amsterdam Walk | 504 Amsterdam Ave NE | Atlanta, GA 30306

## CLASS SOCIAL-DISTANCING SAFETY PROCEDURES AND CURRICULUM ISSUES

- **Wearing a mask will be mandatory for all students while in the building and during class.**
- Class time will be cut by five minutes to assure the safe distancing flow of classes entering and leaving shared studios and to disinfect before next classes arrival.
- All classes will be in cohorts of the same students and teacher.
- Class cohorts will be a range of 9 to 15 students maximum and will be assigned a home studio. The studio size will determine the number of students at each location.
- Barre work will be 6-feet apart in distance and will be marked with assigned placement.
- Center work will have a 9- to 12-foot radius that will be marked with assigned placement.
- Students will be assigned a position at the barre and the center that will not change throughout the class time.
- There will be no physical contact during class including corrections from faculty.
- Students leaving barre will sanitize their hands before going to center.
- No more than two students will be allowed in the bathroom at the same time.
- There will be designated bathrooms for use per studio and location.
- Entering and leaving the studios will have a one-way system and will be staggered.
- All students and faculty will remain six feet apart in hallways and lobby areas.
- Students will not be allowed to change shoes on the floor. They will each have their own chair to change shoes and keep belongings.
- No combinations will take place crossing the floor. These steps will be accomplished with a different approach.
- Academy Students are to bring their own food/snacks that do not require refrigeration/microwave.
- Academy Students may not leave the facility to buy lunch. Students are not allowed to share lunches.





## PROTOCOL FOR WHEN A CONFIRMED CASE HAS ENTERED THE BUILDING

- Atlanta Ballet will coordinate with local health officials to assess the risk and communicate to parents and staff, which will align with the Centre's emergency operations plan.
- If a student or staff member becomes ill during the course of the day they will be isolated in a specified area until they can leave the building.
- Students and staff will be dismissed for 2-5 days. This initial short-term dismissal allows time for local health officials to determine further courses of action.
- The students and staff who have become ill in the affected cohort will not be allowed to return until they have tested negative or completed a 14-day quarantine.
- A disinfectant cleaning will take place.
- Those students and staff in the cohort affected will receive virtual training.
- **If a COVID-19 case prompts dismissal or temporary closure of the program, the Centre will begin virtual classes until reopening.**

## ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

- To lessen the amount of people in the building at any given time, administrative staff will work remotely until further notice.
- We will likely adopt a phased-in approach for administrative staff to return to work in the building—possibly by staggering days and times by departments.



Photo by Kim Kenney.