

COVID-19 POLICY UPDATE

Effective June 15, 2021

Now that recital is over, our eyes turn to the remainder of the 21-22 season, summer, and fall. I'm so proud that since March of 2020 we have worked tirelessly to execute on our Safer Studio™ plan, implementing numerous Covid-19 protocols quickly and smoothly, and keeping the safety and wellbeing of our students and staff always at the forefront of every decision. Thanks to our team's dedication we have experienced only a .001% occurrence of Covid cases, out of tens of thousands of visits to the studio, since reopening in-person classes in June of 2020. Vaccines are now widely available, Arizona's Covid positivity rates are declining, and city, county, and local mandates are lightening or lifting. The CDC issued new guidelines on May 13 which state that fully vaccinated individuals can feel safe without a mask regardless of location, activity, or crowd size and most of the local school districts have let their mask mandates expire as of May 31, 2021. It is after thoughtful consideration of these factors that we make the following announcement:

As of June 15, 2021 Classic Image Dance will be transitioning from a policy of mask requirement to a policy of mask recommendation. All programs from June 21st onward (barring any significant changes in the progress of the pandemic) will be mask optional for all faculty, staff, students and guests.

Although the studio will no longer temperature check staff as of June 15, we will continue to self-monitor for symptoms of any kind and stay home if ill. Covid-positive staff members and students will still be expected to quarantine until they are out of the CDC recommended isolation window.

Although many of us will feel relieved to read this announcement, many also will feel concerned about returning to a pre-Covid lifestyle and may choose to continue wearing their mask. Some dancers may be contending with additional health problems, might have a particularly vulnerable family member at home, or they might simply choose to wear their mask—the studio warmly welcomes each family to make the choice that is right for them. Parents of dancers under 12 can check out this helpful resource from Dr. Yvonne Maldonado, who is currently leading vaccine trials in children younger than 12 as the chief of the pediatric infectious diseases division at the Stanford University School of Medicine.

We continue to encourage the same kindness and generosity which you have shown since the very beginning, and which makes us so proud to call you "our" dancers. YOU are truly what make us More Than Just Great Dancing!® Thank you for your continued support!

Ms. Shannon