

The Dance Ability Movement Plans for this Season and Covid-19 Protocol

Following COVID-19 Guidelines:

As we gradually resume in-person dance classes, the health and safety of our dancers, families, volunteers, instructors, and Occupational Therapists is extremely important to us. We will be following government guidelines regarding the COVID-19 Pandemic and working towards a gradual transition back into the studio for some classes and some dancers. Please read more information about this on page 2: *In-Person Classes Keeping Everyone Safe*.

Virtual Class Options:

We have discovered that dancing virtually at home provides an accessible, safe, and fun option for dancers in the interim (and for some - is preferable!) and our team of qualified instructors will continue to offer a variety of virtual dance classes for all ages. Our Occupational Therapists will be focused on supporting dancers to participate at home, through coaching and supporting families, continuing to provide training and support for our volunteers and teachers. Your feedback and input are very important to us. If you are having trouble connecting please reach out so we can support you.

Maintaining Connection:

At The Dance Ability Movement, we strive to work collaboratively with our communities. We are finding new ways to stay connected with volunteers, dancers, and parents including:

- Virtual Team Meetings
- FREE virtual dance class options (ie. in partnership with National Ballet School) for all community members
- FREE virtual socials for dancers registered in in-person or virtual DAM classes
- Feedback Surveys (Google Forms)
- Training our teachers to invite feedback at the end of every class
- Use of the chat box during virtual classes to share feedback, ideas, respond to changing needs of dancers, etc.
- Creation of video resources/tutorials available on the Dance Studio Pro cloud for families to access
- Continued use of our social media pages (Facebook and Instagram), and Website to communicate with our broader community.

Studio Processes:

We will be following studio processes for each location that we work with. We are maintaining open communication and working together with Studio Owners to provide a safe environment for our dancers and contracted staff. Please visit the studio web pages (see below) to learn more about each studio's plan for re-opening and new processes in place. Information will be shared with families prior to attending their first in-person classes.

- [Creative Children's Dance Centre \(Toronto\)](#)
- [Dance Elite \(Milton\)](#)
- [June Lawrence School of Dance \(Mississauga\)](#)
- [The Dance Workshop \(Alliston\)](#)
- [Elite Dance Corps \(Bradford\)](#)
- [JCB Danceworks \(Richmond Hill\)](#)

In-Person Classes: Keeping Everyone Safe

We understand that for some dancers, the virtual dance classes are not ideal and many dancers are eager to get back to the studio. We have a gradual transition plan to return to in-person dance classes, while following government guidelines related to the current COVID-19 pandemic. As always, we plan to work with our community and team members to create a safe space for all. We truly believe in the value of the dance community, and weekly dance classes being an important part of our dancers' routines contributing to their health and wellness! We encourage anyone considering returning to in-person activities to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

We appreciate your understanding and support in navigating these uncertain and changing times. Please know that our virtual dance classes are ALWAYS an option for you!

In-Person Classes:

A select number of classes will be offered in-person at most studio locations starting this fall.

- Dancers must be eligible to participate in-person (able to follow current COVID-19 guidelines ie. social distancing, hand-washing, wearing a mask in common areas, participating without a parent, etc.).
 - Most importantly - dancers must continue to practice social distancing and remain inside of a taped line box on the floor - independently. This is critical for the safety of everyone. We will work with you to teach your dancer these rules, however, depending on the situation, if they are unable to do this, dancers will be invited to join our virtual dance class until guidelines are lifted and it is safe for them to return in-person.
- A limited number of in-person spots are available depending on studio size and the number of spaces allotted for dancers. This also means there will be fewer volunteers available for in-person classes.
- Parents should not remain in the lobby. If needed you can assist your dancer to get set up (if space permits) while wearing a mask.
- Dancers will be allowed to bring into the studio only essential items (water bottles, shoes etc) that must be inside a bag labeled with dancer's name.
- All dancers must complete a pre-screen at home and at the door (including temperature checks) prior to entering the dance class. We appreciate your understanding if it is not safe to attend in-person.

- Contracted staff and Volunteers of DAM will be asked to provide proof of vaccination against COVID-19 if attending in-person classes. Vaccination status of our contracted staff will be disclosed to participants. Everyone will continue to wear masks indoors at this time.
- In most circumstances at this time, Volunteers & Teachers will not provide direct support for dancers (ie. beyond verbal cueing), meaning that dancers requiring physical assistance or physical cues may be better able to participate at home until this support can be provided.
- We are establishing volunteer roles including Volunteer Studio Team Leads, Safety Volunteers, and Screeners. We will introduce you to the team members at your studio prior to starting class.
- Our team will be trained to monitor symptoms of COVID-19; if your child appears unwell or demonstrates any potential symptoms they will be isolated from the group and you will be contacted to pick them up from class.