

Technical Production Commission's COVID-19 Reopening Guides

Special Considerations for Dancers

General Practices

- Please adhere first and foremost to the CDC guidelines on COVID-19, social distancing, appropriate mask-wearing, and your state and local policies and procedures. [5]
- Any meetings, rehearsals, and other events should be virtual rather than in-person whenever possible. [5]
- Any in-person meetings, rehearsals, or performances should require the physical presence of as few people as practical, including the use of staggered calls or hybrid meetings. [5]
- A Health and Safety Coordinator should be present at all rehearsals and performances to ensure that COVID-19 guidelines and check-in procedures are followed.

Considerations for Dancers

- Because of the level of physical exertion and increased respiration involved in dance, additional safeguards and limitations on activities should be taken. The American Guild of Musical Artists (AGMA) and Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC) have created the Return to Stage and Performing Arts Playbook to guide decisions by dance companies and dancers returning to the studio.
- The AGMA Playbook presents guidelines for incremental, progressive reopening, with five levels of activity. Level 1 allows limited activity with very few people present; Level 5 is described as our “new normal” and removes most restrictions. To follow this plan, the Playbook advises that companies should “comply with all federal, state, and local requirements... The expectation is for the company to spend a minimum of two weeks at each level.” In addition, progressing to the next level requires monitoring the level of the disease in the community in which the company is located, and taking those statistics into account. The Playbook provides specific target levels for progression to each level. [1]

Studio Occupancy

- The Playbook recommends studio occupancy limitations according to the company’s current level in the reopening progression. For example, the occupancy guideline for Level 1 is for limiting studio use to solo rehearsal or up to four people who cohabitate. For Level 2, the guideline is 50% of maximum occupancy based on the distancing guidelines for dancers. [1]

Distancing

- For dancers exercising in place, as at a ballet barre, 10 feet of separation and at least 100 square feet of floor space should be allowed for each person. [1]
- For dancers doing center work or moving across the floor indoors, each person should be allotted 150 square feet of space. [1]

Technical Production Commission's COVID-19 Reopening Guides

Special Considerations for Dancers

Distancing cont.

- The Playbook recommends imagining “a series of bubbles (with 5'+ radius and 150 sqft area) moving freely about the room without bumping into another bubble.” [1]
- Dancers should avoid following behind other dancers, which can result in the trailing dancer inhaling the exhalation of the leading dancer. [2]

Masks

- Dancers should wear masks at all times. [1, 5]
- The Playbook notes that masks might be impractical during activities that involve physical exertion. If dancers do not wear masks, physical distancing is essential, and additional space should be considered. [1]

Room Turnover

- There should be a minimum of 30 minutes between classes or rehearsals in a studio to allow aerosolized particles to dissipate. [1]
- Additional time might be necessary, depending on the ventilation in the room. [1]

Equipment Cleaning

- Barres, mats, etc. should be cleaned after each use with EPA-approved List N products. [1, 6]
- If dancers' hands or bodies come into contact with the floor, it should also be cleaned with EPA-approved products per manufacturer's instructions after every rehearsal and class and allowed to dry. [1, 6]

Rehearsal Attire and Personal Belongings

- The Playbook recommends keeping dressing rooms and locker rooms closed until the later levels of the reopening progression. [1]
- Dancers should arrive at the studio wearing rehearsal attire under their street clothes. [1]
- Studios should include designated spaces for personal belongings and shoes. [1]

Music Accompaniment — Recorded Playback

- If sound playback is required, a single operator should be assigned to use the equipment and to sanitize it before and after use. [3]
- The sound operator should be provided hand sanitizer and should use it before and after handling each auditioner's cell phone. [5]

Music Accompaniment — Live Musician

- If a live musician, such as a pianist, is required, they should wear a mask and be spaced at least six feet away from the dancers. [4, 5]
- Dancers should maintain at least six feet of distance and wear masks while conferring with the musician. [4, 5]
- Sheet music that will be used by more than one musician should be laminated or placed in protective sheet covers and sanitized before and after each use. [4, 5]
- The musician should be provided hand sanitizer to use as needed. [4, 5]
- The piano/keyboard and music stands should be sanitized prior to use with EPA-approved solutions, and between each player. [4, 6, 7, 8]

Technical Production Commission's COVID-19 Reopening Guides

Special Considerations for Dancers

References

1. American Guild of Musical Artists and Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, "Return to Stage and Performing Arts Playbook, Version 2" - August 24, 2020
<https://www.musicalartists.org/sdc-agma-playbook/>
2. Dance/USA, Return to Dancing and Training Considerations Due to COVID-19: https://dance-usa.s3.amazonaws.com/page_uploads/COVID%20-%20RETURN%20TO%20DANCE%20-%20MAY%202020%20-%20PDF.pdf
3. IATSE Safe Reopening Guidelines
https://www.iatse.net/sites/default/files/stagecraft_reopening_guidelines_final.pdf
4. American Federation of Musicians - Returning to Work Safely: Guidelines for Small Venues, Studios, & Rehearsal Spaces <https://www.afm.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Returning-to-Work-Safely-PDF-06.16.20.pdf>
5. "OSHA: COVID-19 Control & Prevention" <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/controlprevention.html#health>
6. EPA: List N: Disinfectants for Use Against Sars-Cov-2 (Covid-19)
<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2-covid-19>
7. Steinway & Sons: How to Clean Your Piano
<https://www.steinway.com/news/features/utility/cleaning-your-piano>
8. Piano Technician Guild: COVID & Piano Care <https://www.ptg.org/covid-19>