

NEW HAVEN BALLET

LISA SANBORN
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Draft Reopening Studio Protocols

The health and safety of students, administrators and faculty has been and continues to be the highest priority and concern, as is establishing protocols that allow for inclusion and access for all New Haven Ballet intermediate and advanced students to resume training in the studios. New Haven Ballet established a Reopening Task Force composed of medical, legal, and educational professionals, in addition to representation by the Board, faculty and parents. In forming the guidelines for reopening, the task force relied on guidance from the CDC, State of Connecticut, sources that have established protocols for opening dance studios during COVID-19, and institutional knowledge and experience. The Task Force recommends that to reopen individuals and facilities adhere to strict health and safety protocols. Online classes would continue to be required with weekly studio classes offered to intermediate and advanced students on a rotating basis to ensure compliance with social distancing and safety protocols.

1. Arrival

- a. Curb side drop off/pick up only
 - i. Drop off/pick up MUST be on time
 - ii. Only students permitted to enter building
 - iii. NHB office to remain closed – no visitors
- b. Common areas will remain off limits/blocked off to everyone
- c. Students should arrive ready to dance
 - i. Line up 6-feet outside building wearing face mask, wear practice clothes under street clothes and hair up ready to dance
 - ii. No changing or readying for class inside building
 - iii. Surgical face masks permit greatest air flow during exercise; plain cloth masks (no words) are acceptable
 - iv. Students should practice wearing face masks during exercise at home
- d. Bring only what is required for class (dance shoes, water)
 - i. No food permitted
 - ii. No extra items or large bags

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- iii. Carry in/carry out
 - e. Anyone who fails to adhere to these protocols will lose privileges to participate in studio classes
2. Screening Checklist (By NHB Administrator)
- a. Temperature (Average of three readings taken outside of building)
 - i. 100F or higher – May not enter
 - ii. Parents must wait in car until communication that student may enter building before leaving drop off area
 - b. Wash hands/use hand sanitizer (upon entering)
 - c. Wear face mask (to enter)
 - d. Questions (asked of students and circulated in writing to parents):
 - i. Has student experienced any of the following symptoms, or had close exposure with someone who has any of the following symptoms:
 - 1. Fever or chills
 - 2. Cough
 - 3. Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - 4. Fatigue
 - 5. Muscle or body aches
 - 6. Headache
 - 7. New loss of taste or smell
 - 8. Sore throat
 - 9. Congestion or runny nose
 - 10. Nausea or vomiting
 - 11. Diarrhea
 - ii. Close exposure to anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19
 - iii. Travel to a high exposure area
 - e. If yes, 14-day ban from attending studio classes and quarantine per CDC may be required¹. Notify Department of Health

¹ CDC links for quarantine with COVID: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine-isolation.html>

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3. Professional Cleaning and Sanitization:

- a. Whitney Avenue studio and bathroom will be professionally cleaned and sanitized weekly with only New Haven Ballet individuals having access to studio area and bathroom
- b. 70 Audubon Street studios, equipment, elevator, touched surfaces, and bathrooms recommended to be professionally cleaned and sanitized daily due to shared use
- c. Touched surfaces will be sanitized daily after each use
- d. Shorter classes will allow for extra time to disinfect and permit the passage of students into/out of class

4. Task Force Guidelines for Classes to Resume at 70 Audubon Street

- a. Elevator: 1 individual
- b. Stairwell: maintain 6' distance at all times
- c. Bathrooms: 1 student at a time (individuals strongly encouraged to use bathroom facilities at home and minimize bathroom use at studio)
- d. No water fountain use
- e. Danspace doors to outside should remain open when possible to increase ventilation and ways to improve ventilation for building should be considered
- f. The elevator bank area, Danspace and Studio 70 should each have HEPA air purifiers
- g. Hand sanitizer stations should be installed at the entrance/exit, elevators, inside studios, and outside of bathrooms
- h. Waiting room should be closed off to visitors
- i. Floor markings installed to establish and maintain social distancing
- j. Visitors and those interacting with the public must wear face masks
 - i. Face masks should be supplied to those who arrive without one and those who refuse to wear masks in the elevator bank area should be escorted out of the building
- k. Surfaces including door handles and elevator buttons, and all studio surfaces, should be professionally cleaned and sanitized daily with disinfecting also happening through the day

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- l. When NHB enters studios surfaces should be clean and NHB will clean surfaces when finished
- m. Everyone who enters building should have temperatures taken and health questions asked

5. Studio Protocols

- a. Administrators will inspect and disinfect surfaces upon early arrival
- b. HEPA air purifiers will be used
- c. Floor markings noting 6-foot distances
- d. Reduced class sizes
- e. Advanced and intermediate students will be prioritized
- f. Face coverings must be worn at all times
- g. Students, administrators and faculty will be asked to assist with sanitizing surfaces
- h. Students and faculty will be asked to face the same direction to minimize exposure from breathing particulates when individuals face each other
- i. Instructors will not administer tactile corrections to ensure social distancing
- j. Dynamic exercises that result in deep, heavy breathing will be shortened and minimized
- k. No sharing of equipment or personal items
- l. Individuals deemed “at risk” may not participate in in-person classes
 - i. Students should consult with personal physicians to ensure they may safely attend studio classes
- m. Studio windows and doors should be opened when possible to increase ventilation
- n. Students must exit building to remove masks

6. COVID-19 Exposure²

- a. Anyone who is not feeling well, or has had close exposure with someone who is not feeling well, is asked to remain home

² <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/public-health-recommendations.html>

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- b. If someone has experienced close exposure to a person who is experiencing symptoms or is positive for COVID-19, they may not attend in-person classes for 14-days and the CDC may require quarantine³
- c. If someone is positive for COVID-19⁴ they may not attend in-person classes for 14-days and the CDC may require quarantine
- d. Positive COVID-19 individual in the classroom
 - i. Isolate person in separate room or area away/closed off from others
 - ii. Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area
 - iii. Wait 24 hours before cleaning or disinfecting
 - iv. Clean and disinfect all areas used by the person who is sick
 - v. Use vacuum equipped with high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter
 - vi. Do not vacuum a room or space that has people in it. Wait until the room or space is empty to vacuum, such as at night, for common spaces, or during the day for private rooms
 - vii. Consider temporarily turning off room fans and the central HVAC system that services the room or space, so that particles that escape from vacuuming will not circulate throughout the facility
 - viii. Notify Department of Health
- e. Once area has been appropriately disinfected, it can be opened for uses
- f. Workers without close contact with a person who is sick can return to work immediately after disinfection
- g. After more than 7 days pass since the person who is sick visited or used the facility, additional cleaning and disinfection is not necessary
- h. Continue routine cleaning and disinfection. This includes everyday practices that businesses and communities normally use to maintain a healthy environment

³ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine-isolation.html>

⁴ CDC links for quarantine with COVID: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine-isolation.html>

⁵ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>