

NEW HAVEN BALLET

LISA SANBORN
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Studio Protocols During COVID-19

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 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 guidelines for holding classes in the studio, 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 individuals and facilities adhere to strict health and safety protocols. Online classes will continue to be offered in addition to private and duet lessons offered in the studio and via Zoom 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 15-minutes before class begins
 - ii. Only students permitted to enter building
 - iii. NHB office to remain closed – no visitors (unless an appointment is made)
- b. Common areas will remain off limits/blocked off to everyone
- c. Those in high risk groups (comorbidity) and over age 65 should continue to stay safe and stay home
- d. Stay home/do not enter if you are sick or you have close contact to someone who is sick
- e. Students arrive 15-minutes early 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. Wash hands or use hand sanitizer upon entrance
 - iii. Remain 6-feet away from others at all times
 - iv. No changing or readying for class inside building

NEW HAVEN BALLET

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- v. Face masks must be worn over the nose and mouth
 - vi. Students should practice wearing face masks during exercise at home
 - f. Bring only what is required for class (dance shoes, water)
 - i. No food permitted
 - ii. No extra items or large bags
 - iii. Carry in/carry out
 - g. 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 and inside building)
 - 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

NEW HAVEN BALLET

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- 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
3. Professional Cleaning and Sanitization:
- a. Studios and bathrooms will be professionally cleaned and sanitized weekly with only New Haven Ballet individuals having access to studio area and bathroom
 - b. Touched surfaces will be sanitized daily after each use
 - c. Extra time allotted between classes to disinfect and permit the passage of students into/out of class
 - d. HEPA air purifiers used in studios
4. 70 Audubon Street
- a. Elevator: 2 individuals maximum standing in opposing corners facing the same way
 - 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 may remain open when possible to increase ventilation and ways to improve ventilation for building should be considered
 - f. Hand sanitizer at the entrance/exit, in studios and otherwise readily available
 - g. Waiting room closed off to visitors
 - h. Floor markings installed to establish and maintain social distancing
 - i. Visitors and those interacting with the public must wear face masks
 - i. Face masks should be supplied to those who arrive without one and anyone who refuses to wear a mask must not enter, or if inside, leave the building
 - j. 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

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

NEW HAVEN BALLET

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- 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 may be shortened and/or 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 may be opened when possible to increase ventilation
 - n. Students are asked to 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
 - 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

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

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>

NEW HAVEN BALLET

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- 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 use⁵
 - 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

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