

Dear Southold Families,

The COVID Policy Committee convened last week to discuss the fall 2021 semester COVID safety policies. Their goal in reviewing the policies was to minimize the social impacts of the pandemic while maintaining student safety. We have a deep appreciation for the sacrifices that your family makes to provide your children with a high-quality dance education. The Committee very carefully considered feedback from parents in conjunction with guidance from the CDC and the local health department in the review process. Below are our COVID safety policies that are *effective immediately*.

These policies are not permanent and will be under a cycle of review.

Masking

All visitors to the building will be required to wear a mask regardless of vaccination status.

Common area and dressing room masking will be strictly enforced.

Creative levels - Level IV

- Masks will be mandatory at all times for students in the common areas, dressing rooms, and studios.
- Teachers in these levels will wear a mask in class.

LEVEL V+

- Masks will be mandatory in common areas and dressing rooms at all times for Company level students and optional in studios during class.
- Teachers in these levels have the option of wearing a mask during class.

Adult Ballet

- Masks are mandatory in commons areas and dressing rooms. Masks are optional in studios.

Physical Distancing

Students will be distanced as much as possible in class and asked to assume the same barre position for every class and work in the same groups for center work.

Notification

If a student tests positive for COVID, the students closest to the positive case during barre work will be notified and asked to quarantine if they are not vaccinated. If they are vaccinated, the student does not need to quarantine but will be asked to wear a

mask during class for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result 5 days after exposure, per [CDC guidelines](#).

All families of students in the impacted student's level will also be notified, even if not deemed a close contact, in the event they wish to have their student mask or stay home.

Quarantine

If a student is to quarantine we will be following CDC guidelines that read –

- Fully vaccinated close contacts should be referred for COVID-19 [testing](#). If asymptomatic, fully vaccinated close contacts do not need to quarantine at home following an exposure (they can continue to attend school in-person and participate in other activities). In addition to correctly wearing masks in school, they should wear a mask in other indoor public settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result.
- Close contacts who are not fully vaccinated should be referred for COVID-19 [testing](#). Regardless of test result, they should quarantine at home for 14 days after exposure. [Options to shorten quarantine](#) provide acceptable alternatives of a 10-day quarantine or a 7-day quarantine combined with testing and a negative test result.

Miscellaneous

We will once again have families sign a liability waiver as part of the fall registration process, similar to last year.

All students and visitors to the building for Nutcracker auditions on August 28th will be required to mask at all times.

These are tough times and we are being faced with a lot of difficult decisions. While we recognize that these policies may be burdensome to some of our families, it is our hope that these policies will help us keep our doors open and prevent another shutdown. Like you, we want to keep our dancers healthy, strong, and dancing!

If you have any questions or concerns, please let us know. We welcome your feedback.

Veronica Rog, Executive Director