

HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY OF BALLET

Effective June 12, 2020
Revised October 5, 2020

The Pennsylvania Academy of Ballet (PAB) has resumed limited in-person instruction. Before resuming, PAB planned and implemented strategies to support healthy, safe, and inclusive learning environments informed by guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

This Health and Safety Plan outlines how PAB maintains a safe environment for teachers, staff and students in order to minimize the risk of transmission of COVID-19 until the public health risk is deemed to be low enough that Pennsylvania is no longer operating under its Phased Reopening Plan and has discontinued any restrictions for operations.

In generating its Health and Safety Plan, PAB, as a Fine Art School, is following the preliminary guidelines released by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.¹ Should PAB determine that different guidelines are more closely applicable to its operations, or if more detailed guidelines are released, PAB will adjust this Health and Safety Plan accordingly and redistribute.

Any questions or concerns regarding this Plan may be directed to info@paacademyofballet.com, or by calling +1 (610) 664-3455.

SECTION A Preliminary Considerations

How will PAB coordinate with local public health officials?

PAB will monitor all health-related information relevant to its operations on a weekly basis. Sources that PAB will monitor include, but are not limited to, guidance from the Office of the Governor of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, including information specific to Montgomery County², the Centers for Disease Control, and the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

How does PAB plan to resume in-person instruction safely?

PAB will not be open to any in-person instruction during any period of time deemed “Red Phase”. PAB intends to limit occupancy within its building to 50% capacity at all times during

¹ <https://www.education.pa.gov/Schools/safeschools/emergencyplanning/COVID-19/SchoolReopeningGuidance/HigherEd/Pages/default.aspx>

² <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/County-Dashboard.aspx>

“Yellow Phase” and “Green Phase”. During all phases, PAB will minimize the number of staff members present in the building only to minimum necessary teaching and administrative staff.

How will PAB monitor health conditions on its premises?

PAB is asking that all students and staff self-monitor for symptoms prior to arriving on-premises. While on premises, if any student or staff should exhibit symptoms, or raise any health concerns, PAB will follow CDC guidelines for identifying illness. All PAB staff have received instructions on how to identify suspected illness and are aware of the protocol for what to do if a student or staff member exhibits symptoms while on PAB’s premises.

How will PAB mitigate and contain the spread of the virus on its premises, and to inform the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) in the event that transmission occurs at the institution?

If PAB should identify a sick student, PAB will take immediate steps to isolate the student safely until they can get picked up by a caregiver or drive themselves home if appropriate. If a student or staff member should later be determined to have been carrying the virus while on the premises, PAB will inform all staff and students who may have been exposed so that they may take precautions and monitor for illness. PAB will fully comply with all efforts to conduct contact tracing. Please see Section C, “General Preparedness”, below for further detail on how PAB intends to maintain and sanitize its premises and conduct in-person instruction safely, following social distancing guidelines.

How will PAB communicate accurate and timely information to students, faculty, staff, and the communities it serves?

PAB will make this Health and Safety Plan available on its website³ during any period of time considered “Red”, “Yellow”, or “Green”, according to the Pennsylvania Phased Reopening Plan. PAB will also send this Health and Safety Plan by email (or regular mail, if no email is available) to any students who will be arriving for in-person instruction during the Phased Reopening. In addition, this Health and Safety Plan will be posted on the premises. PAB will periodically review the Health and Safety Plan and the most recent revision date will be prominently displayed. If the Health and Safety Plan is revised in any way, it will be redistributed by email and updated on our website and premises.

SECTION B

Social Distancing and Health Protocols for In-Person Instruction:

- 1) Before Arriving:** Except for dance shoes, all students must arrive to PAB ready for class. There will be no access granted to the locker rooms in order to dress for class, and no belongings will be permitted to be left outside the classroom. Students are highly

³ <http://www.paacademyofballet.com/hsp.html>

encouraged not to bring anything other than dance necessities (shoes, water bottle) for class in order not to clutter their dance space while in the classroom.

- 2) Authorization to Enter:** All students must receive prior permission to enter the building for in-person instruction. For its adult drop-in ballet program, PAB will determine which students are permitted to be on-premises from the list of enrolled registrants before the start of the instructional week. Priority will be given to earlier registrants. Students with permission to enter will be informed by email or phone as to which days they will be allowed to enter, and provided a copy of this Health and Safety Plan. For students in the regular division whose level enrollment exceeds maximum capacity per class during restricted access, each student is assigned a cohort group so that each enrollment level is offered equal instructional access in the building
- 3) Entering the building:** All students and staff will enter through the front door one-by-one. Face coverings must be worn over the nose and mouth in order to be allowed to enter. Face shields may be worn, but only in addition to a face mask that covers the nose and mouth and extends from under the chin to over the nose. No parents, guardians, or non-students will be permitted access. Access to the building will be restricted to 25 minutes before class, and within 15 minutes after class has ended.
- 4) Common Areas:** There will be no gathering in the common areas. All students will proceed directly to the classroom, with their belongings, in order to prepare for class. Masks must be worn in all common areas.
- 5) Classroom:** Students arriving for class will enter the classroom one-by-one and assigned a place to stand by the instructor. Each student space will be clearly marked and adhere to proper social distancing guidelines. Students will not be permitted to move outside their designated space except by permission of the instructor. Rigorous social distancing will be maintained and monitored by staff. Teachers will wear face masks during instruction. A teacher is permitted to wear a face shield, but only in addition to an approved face mask that covers the nose and mouth, and extends from under the chin to over the nose.
- 6) Bathrooms:** Students may only enter the locker room bathroom one-by-one. Students may not spend time in the locker rooms for any purpose other than using the bathroom and washing hands. Staff may only use the bathroom designated in the office.
- 7) Exiting the Building:** After class, students will leave the building without delay so that proper cleaning may occur between classes. No student may wait for pickup within the building. Parents and guardians are encouraged to provide their student with a mobile device so that they may communicate with their student without congregating near the school building.

SECTION C

Studio Sanitation and General Preparedness

- PAB will conduct regular cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces and objects that are frequently touched. This includes cleaning objects or surfaces not ordinarily cleaned regularly (e.g., doorknobs, light switches, sink handles, countertops, etc.) All barres and equipment used for class will be disinfected between classes.

- PAB will conduct periodic maintenance of its ventilation system in order to ensure adequate air quality, and has already done so once prior to reopening.
- PAB will make hand sanitizer available to all students and staff at various convenient stations.⁴
- Where feasible, PAB will provide visual guidance to students and staff in order to maintain proper social distancing, such as tape on the floor and signage.
- PAB will encourage frequent handwashing, including signage in the bathrooms, prompts, reminders, and behavior modeling by staff.
- PAB will make its best effort to provide disposable face masks to any student and staff who cannot provide a face mask of their own.
- PAB will conduct periodic review of its curriculum in order to minimize health risks during instruction and will maintain regular communication with its staff in order to implement any curriculum changes.
- **In order to encourage social distancing, and to further the Governor’s ongoing stated goal of “safer at home”, PAB will continue to provide remote learning access for its core curriculum for any student who prefers to remain off-premises.**
- In the event that transmission of COVID-19 occurs on PAB’s premises, PAB will notify DOH or local health officials and emergency management personnel, determine if a temporary suspension (2-5 days) of in-person instruction is warranted, communicate case or exposure information with students, staff, and faculty, clean the premises according to CDC guidelines⁵ and seek further guidance on mitigation strategies from health authorities.⁶

⁴ Disinfectant supplies meet EPA’s criteria for use against SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19).

⁵ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html>

⁶ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-ihe-response.html>