

## **SECTION 1: PREPARATION & COMMUNICATION**

American Youth Dance Theater (AYDT) will strive to maintain open and fluid lines of communication with its constituency to share this Reopening Plan as well as health and safety information pertaining to mitigating the risk of COVID-19 transmission. We will:

- Distribute the Reopening Plan to families, faculty and staff.
- Publish the Reopening Plan (and any updates thereto) on our website portal.
- Train faculty, staff, and students on how to follow COVID-19 prevention protocols safely and correctly, including but not limited to hand hygiene, proper wearing of face coverings, physical distancing, and respiratory hygiene.
- Faculty and staff are participating in mandatory training before the start of the school year.

## **SECTION 2: HEALTH & SAFETY**

### **School Density**

#### Access to Buildings

Only faculty, staff, and students will have access to enter school building.

To de-densify our studio, non-student family members, and any other individuals (hereinafter, "Visitors") will not be able to enter AYDT on a regular basis. Visitors will be limited and will only be granted access to the school building with prior approval from an administrator. We will keep a sign-up sheet at the front desk, which will be maintained by head administrators. The sign-up sheets will include the date, Visitor's name, time of entry and confirmation that a pre-entry health screening resulted in a cleared screening result. Visitors will be subject to the same level of screening as students, faculty, and staff.

#### Arrival, Dismissal and Staggered Schedules

To facilitate physical distancing, AYDT staggered start times of classes.

#### **ARRIVAL PRACTICES: students can only arrive 10 minutes prior to start time of class**

- There will be two entrances, one for second floor and one for ground floor.
- Signs will be posted at entrance as to which door students will enter and exit.
- Students are highly encouraged to wear dancewear, except shoes, into building.
- Dressing rooms will be open at limited capacity.
- Students are required to keep ALL belonging in one large bag, laundry bag recommended so coat, shoes etc. fits in one bag and can be closed with drawstring. **Laundry Bags are available for purchase for \$5 if you do not have one.**

#### **DISMISSAL PRACTICES: pickup is outside only, lobby is closed.**

- Students will be dismissed in dancewear and outerwear, only shoes will be changed before exiting.
- **During dismissal students will always be supervised.**

Whenever possible, we will have signage to mark standing points that facilitate physical distancing where students may stand in case there is a line to enter the buildings. If there is a line to enter AYDT,

parents may wait in line with their children; however, parents will have to say goodbye to their children outside the building. A staff member will escort children to designated studio.

## **Face Coverings**

AYDT requires all children ages 3 and up wear face masks at all times.

AYDT recommends disposable/surgical face masks to dance in.

- A student who is having difficulty breathing will immediately be sent to an administrator to take a break, if the difficulty continues, the parent or guardian will be contacted.

## **Physical Distancing**

Physical distancing is an important practice that helps mitigate the transmission of the COVID- 19 virus. AYDT will strive to ensure appropriate physical distancing.

Whenever possible, we will designate signage and/or tape arrows on the floor to mark traffic flow and physical distancing.

Water Breaks: To limit hallway traffic, students can bring water bottles, with their name on it, into the classroom.

In general, we will arrange faculty and staff schedules so that only employees who are needed on any given day are required to be at AYDT.

## **Studio**

### Studios and Props

AYDT will restructure studio configurations to allow for 6ft distancing.

Any props used will be thoroughly cleaned regularly.

Every studio will have sanitizing supplies to assist with maintaining high levels of safety throughout the day.

## **Personal Hygiene & Sanitizing Stations**

AYDT will follow hygiene requirements as advised by the CDC and the DOH. This will include:

- Sanitizing stations in common spaces & studios
- Handwashing (for at least 20 seconds) using soap and running water, and hand drying with disposable paper towels.

## **Cleaning, Disinfection & Ventilation**

### Cleaning and Disinfection

As part of standard infection control practices, routine cleaning and disinfection will continue.

Per DOH guidelines, administrative staff will keep logs that include the date, time, and scope of cleaning and disinfection.

Routine cleaning of the school buildings will include:

- Disinfecting props and equipment before and after use
- All common surface areas frequently wiped/sprayed with disinfectant throughout the day
- Nightly deep clean of entire space with **electrostatic disinfectant sprayer**

#### Ventilation Upgrades

- **HVAC system upgraded** with MERV 11 filters and UV light disinfecting
- **Medical grade HEPA air filters** in dance studios and common spaces

### **Transportation and Travel**

#### Transportation

We expect members of our community who must take public transportation (trains, buses, ride sharing or carpools) to practice physical distancing and wear face coverings while in transit and follow hand sanitizing protocols upon arrival to school premises.

#### Travel

All community members traveling back from [overseas](#) or [domestic](#) hotspot states must return to New York in time to meet the 14-day quarantine requirement prior to the start of school, per [CDC](#) and [New York State](#) guidelines. Our first day of school is scheduled for Monday, September 14.

### **Signage**

We will install age-appropriate signage, consistent with DOH and CDC guidelines, reminding our community members to:

- Practice frequent and effective handwashing
- Maintain physical distance wherever possible
- Stay home if they are sick

### **SECTION 3: Monitoring of Health Conditions**

The following sections discuss AYDT's protocols for the regular, reasonable monitoring of health conditions of all members of our community. This includes screenings, procedures for testing, and the collection of related information. All community members will play a critical role in preventing the spread of COVID-19.

### **Screening**

#### Screening Prior to and Upon Arrival

AYDT will implement mandatory health screenings for everyone entering the school buildings including students, faculty, staff, and Visitors to identify any individuals who may have, or may have been exposed to, the COVID-19 virus.

- All individuals entering the buildings will be required to undergo temperature checks. Any person presenting a temperature greater than 100.0°F (37.8°C) will be denied entry into AYDT.
- Faculty, staff, and students are not allowed to enter AYDT:
  - ❖ Having knowingly been in close or proximate contact in the past fourteen (14) days with anyone who has tested positive through a diagnostic test for COVID-19 or who has or had symptoms of COVID-19
  - ❖ Having tested positive through a diagnostic test for COVID-19 in the past fourteen (14) days
  - ❖ Having experienced any symptoms of COVID-19, including a temperature of greater than 100.0°F (37.8°C), in the past fourteen (14) days
  - ❖ Having traveled internationally or from a state with widespread community transmission of COVID-19 per the New York State Travel Advisory in the past fourteen (14) days
- If a student, faculty or staff member has had close or proximate contact with a person confirmed or suspected of having COVID-19, even if such student, faculty or staff member is asymptomatic, they should contact AYDT to discuss their situation before coming to the studio.

#### Monitoring the Health of Students, Faculty and Staff

Individuals who present symptoms will be immediately referred to the school administrator.

AYDT reserves the right to take a student's or an employee's temperature when appearing ill. AYDT will decide when to send an individual home.

AYDT will not keep records of a student's or employee's temperature or symptoms; however, AYDT is mandated to notify the state and local health authorities immediately upon being informed of any positive COVID-19 diagnostic test and must support authorities in contact tracing. Head Administrator will be responsible for notifying state and local health authorities.

#### Positive Screens

Any individual who screens positive for COVID-19 exposure or symptoms will immediately be (a) separated in a safe, contained area (with supervision, if applicable) until dismissed and (b) given instructions to contact their health care provider for assessment and testing.

#### **Testing**

Following strong recommendations by the CDC and the NYSED, AYDT will not require routine mandatory COVID-19 testing or antibody testing of students, faculty, and staff as a screening mechanism. The decision of whether a test needs to be conducted should only be determined by a healthcare provider or the local DOH. AYDT will, however, require testing to prove that an individual who has previously screened positive for COVID-19 is clear to return to school.

#### Containment

The School has developed protocols for the containment of COVID-19 spread and for the care of students, faculty, or staff member who develop COVID-19 symptoms during the school day.

## **Management of Ill Persons and Isolation Protocols**

AYDT is maintaining an area to isolate students, faculty, or staff with symptoms of COVID-19 from others until they can go home or to a healthcare facility.

## **Immediate Response and Cleaning Protocols**

In the event an individual who has been in the school buildings is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19, the School will:

- Close off floor used, or suspected to have been used, by the person who is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19
- Wait a minimum of 12 hours before cleaning and disinfecting to allow aerosolized particles to settle.
- Clean and disinfect all areas used by the person suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19, including offices, classrooms, bathrooms, dressing rooms, and common areas.
- Reopen the areas once they have been appropriately cleaned and disinfected (for exclusive use by individuals who have not had close or proximate contact with the person suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19)
  - ❖ The DOH considers a close or proximate contact to be someone who was within six (6) feet of an infected person for at least ten (10) minutes starting from 48 hours before illness onset (first appearance of symptoms) until the time the person was isolated. The local health department should be contacted if the extent of contact between an individual and a person suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 is unclear

AYDT will also consult with local DOH authorities to determine if closure of the used areas is sufficient or whether closure of in-person school operations is required.

## **Contact Tracing Support**

If a person tests positive for COVID-19, AYDT is required by New York State to support the DOH in tracing all contacts of the individual, in accordance with the protocols, training, and tools provided through the New York State Contact Tracing Program. The head administrator will work in close cooperation with local and state DOH authorities.

Confidentiality will be maintained as required by federal and state law and regulations. The School is also required by law to cooperate with state and local health department isolation and quarantine efforts.

State and local health departments will implement monitoring and movement restrictions of COVID-19 infected or exposed persons.

AYDT is responsible for notifying faculty, staff, or families who have come into close or proximate contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. Privacy laws explicitly prohibit AYDT from revealing the name of the individual who has tested positive for COVID-19. Any such notification will only reveal that the student, faculty or staff has come in close or proximate contact with an unnamed

person, and how we came to know this information (school tracking systems, governmental contact tracing, or another mechanism).

## **Return to School**

An individual who screens positive for COVID-19 symptoms must stay home until a health care provider clears the individual to return to school. To determine whether an individual who screened positive for COVID-19 symptoms can return for in-person learning, the following requirements need to be fulfilled:

- ❖ **Provide documentation of negative COVID-19 testing**

**OR**

- **At least 10 days have passed since symptoms attributed to COVID-19 first appeared**

**OR**

- **At least 10 days have passed since the positive COVID-19 test of the individual has remained asymptomatic**

Return to school must, in all cases, be coordinated with administration.

## **SECTION 4: School Shutdown**

### School Closure

During the 2020-2021 school year, there may be times when the Governor orders that all schools in New York are to close. New York State has established metrics that they will use to order a regional or state-wide lockdown.

However, there may be situations within our own borough, neighborhood, or school community when community spread of COVID-19 needs to be addressed.

### **Quarantining a Class**

If a student tests positive for COVID-19, then their class self-quarantines at home for the following fourteen (14) days. AYDT (a) will notify the community, (b) will perform cleaning and disinfection, and (c) may implement changes to schedules or space use to mitigate the risk of spread.

If the student who tested positive has a sibling in a different class, the sibling will also self-quarantine for fourteen (14) days; however, the sibling's classmates will not need to quarantine unless the sibling has symptoms or tests positive.

During the time of a class quarantine, the class will continue with remote learning. However, there may be situations in which teachers themselves fall sick, in which case AYDT will make every reasonable effort to find substitute coverage. If in-person substitute coverage is not available, class may be streamed remotely.

## School-Wide Closure

In deciding whether to close the school building and enter a phase of remote learning, AYDT will consult with local health department officials and use the following metrics (either alone or in combination, as circumstances suggest):

- If we are not able to staff our school programs safely, and we are not able to secure substitute teachers to carry the programs, then students will pivot to remote learning
- If the New York City rate of new cases, as determined by the DOH, rises over the acceptable rate as determined by the Governor.
- If the Governor mandates school closures in New York State

## Continuation of Instruction During Extended School Closure

It remains our goal to provide in-person education for all students as it is unquestionably preferable to any form of remote learning. It is at the core of our planning to make this possible for school reopening in the fall.

If AYDT is forced to close and switch to remote learning classes will:

- ❖ Continue at regularly scheduled times through an online platform until deemed safe to return to in-person learning by the Governor.

## Attendance

Attendance will be taken regardless of instructional setting. Normal attendance policy will not be strictly enforced for the fall 2020 semester.

### Recital

There will be a Holiday 2020 Recital. Information has not been released; participation is optional. **A recital participation fee will be required to participate.**

Normal attendance policy states, students can miss up to three classes in the fall semester and still participate in the recital. Due to relaxed attendance enforcement, students may now miss up to five classes in the fall semester and still participate in the recital.

However, at least two classes must be made-up to participate in recital.

### Make-up Classes

Make-up classes are only offered through remote learning. To schedule a make-up class, parents must notify the studio by email or phone by 12pm prior to scheduled make-up class.

AYDT offers two remote make-up options:

1. Observe or participate in regularly scheduled class on the day not in attendance. Notification must be made by 12pm to make accommodations to stream class live.
2. Student may request a video of regularly scheduled class. Notification must be made by 12pm to make accommodations to record class.