Guidance for the safe return to dance following COVID-19

As dance studios look forward to a return to dance classes under Step 2 of the Federal Government's National Roadmap to Recovery from COVID-19, RAD Australia has put together some general guidance as a starting point for teachers to navigate this process.

Whilst the National Roadmap to Recovery consists of overarching principles put forward by the Federal Government, each state is enforcing its own version of Step 2 so teachers and studio owners should always refer to their specific state government advice before reopening their studios and returning to a live teaching environment.

As at 2 June 2020 the following dates are planned for transition to Step 2 which includes a return to indoor sporting (and dance) activities. However, it is important to note that these may change if Step 1 is not going to plan in your state. Always check your State Government website to ensure Step 2 will go ahead as planned. For those States with no date announced for Step 2 we are currently assuming the Government's planned trajectory of 3-4 weeks per Step but will continue to monitor advice and update this document accordingly.

STATE	STEP 1 DATE	STEP 2 DATE	STEP 3 DATE
Western Australia	Monday 27 April	Monday 18 May	Saturday 6 June
South Australia	Monday 11 May	Monday 1 June	Monday 29 June
Tasmania	Monday 18 May	Friday 5 June 3pm	Friday 26 June
Northern Territory	Friday 1 May	Friday 15 May	Friday 5 June
Australian Capital Territory	Friday 8 May/Friday 15 May	Friday 29 May/ Friday 19 June	Friday 10 July
New South Wales	Friday 15 May	Saturday 13 June	Date not yet announced
Queensland	Friday 15 May	Monday 1 June	Friday 10 July
Victoria	Tuesday 12 May	Monday 22 June	Date not yet announced

Many states have begun to refer to a COVID Safety Plan which business must complete before they re-open. This plan aims to protect staff and customers and ensure they comply with COVID safety requirements specific to their business including contact tracing requirements. Your plan should be available for inspection by authorised officers. Please refer to your State's website to ascertain their specific requirements for businesses re-opening. You can find a link to all State Government websites at the bottom of this document.

Dance studio owners and teachers should also consider completing/updating a risk assessment of their business to ensure all COVID-19 risks are identified and managed and that Government health advice is followed at all times, as well as ensuring child safety policies and procedures are in place. This planning tool from the National COVID-19 Coordination Commission may assist, as well as resources available from Safe Work Australia, including a workplace checklist, a risk register template with examples and downloadable signage and posters for use. You should also review your State website advice and use their templates if available.

Alongside your COVID Safety Plan and risk assessment you may wish to also consider and incorporate the below guidelines which RAD Australia has been developing for its own use as they relate more specifically to the dance studio environment. Please note these guidelines are subject to further review in response to Government updates.

Class participation and management

Before returning to the studio, teachers and owners should check individual state requirements regarding social distancing and class maximums. See the links below for the correct information and check back regularly for updates.

If you operate classes in a community centre, church hall or similar, you should contact the venue management and check their guidelines for external hirers but note that whilst these venues may be open in Step 1, indoor sporting and dance activities cannot resume until Step 2.

Alongside Federal Government advice we urge you to refer also to your State guidelines to see any potential variations to the national standards. In support of these guidelines we have developed some dance specific steps which you may wish to consider putting in place:

PREPARING TO RETURN
- Consider your timetable carefully as student numbers may be capped. If you choose to live stream during a class you are teaching with students in attendance, ensure you have the correct student media permissions in place before broadcasting.
- Plan your class to allow more time for students to demonstrate exercises in smaller groups to minimise proximity.
- Consider and adapt your class plans to factor in the impact of lockdown and isolation mentally and physically on your students e.g allow more time for explanations and instructions, slowly rebuild technique
- Communicate with your students clearly demonstrating all the actions you have taken and measures you have in place to allay any fears or concerns about returning to the studio.
- Studio owners and teachers must ensure students are aware of the following through instruction and relevant signage:
  - Encourage regular hand washing and use of hand sanitiser. Hand sanitiser used pre and post class for all participants including teachers.
  - Ensure coughs and sneezes are covered by a tissue or a flexed elbow; tissues should be disposed of in a closed bin and hands sanitised following sneezing/coughing.
  - Do not share water bottles and all unclaimed water bottles will be disposed of.
  - To speak up if a student or faculty member is feeling unwell.
- Class start times should be staggered and more time scheduled between classes to allow for cleaning and exit of students before others enter.
- Clear drop off and collection procedures should be put in place and communicated – parents/guardians should be required to drop students at the entrance to a building and not enter premises. Students should be directed not to arrive early and to wait outside until cleaning has been completed and instruction has been given to enter. Students should be returned following the class to the entrance of the building for collection whilst ensuring Child Safety policies and procedures are in place.
- A management plan should be devised with clear policies and protocols for if a student becomes ill or shows signs of illness during class.
- Keep a record of all teachers, students and staff in the building for the purposes of identifying close contact with infected persons in the event of an outbreak of COVID-19.
- Staff should undertake training to ensure cleaning, class participation and management and record keeping protocols are in place at all times. You may choose for relevant staff to undertake the COVID-19 Infection control training - https://www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covid-19-infection-control-training
- Communal showers and change rooms should be closed but toilets can remain open with social distancing measures in place.
- Students should be advised to bring individual towels and water bottles

BEFORE CLASS

- Dancers should be reminded waiting in the studio or indoor waiting rooms is not permitted
- Baggage and belongings should be kept as separate as possible to avoid contact with others – individual lockers are ideal but must also be cleaned between classes
- Dancers should be encouraged to come dressed for class to avoid the need for changing rooms.
- Where class payments are required, only contactless or direct debit payments should be accepted.

DURING CLASS

- Students should stay 1.5 metres apart.
- Barres or the floor should be clearly marked to show appropriate distances. You may like to use tape to assist with this.
- Teachers should maintain a distance of 1.5 metres from students.
- Use of shared props and partner-work/physical contact (unless it is with members of your own household) is not permitted.
- No classes should be observed by an audience.
- If students go to the bathroom during class they should be instructed to sanitise their hands before returning to the studio.

AFTER CLASS

- Studio owners and teachers must ensure the following procedures are adhered to:
  - Wipe down and disinfect barres between every class
  - Wipe down and disinfectant door handles, balustrades and other high-touch surfaces on studio premises, including the floor.
  - Ensure availability of antibacterial hand soap in bathrooms and hand sanitiser in studios and other areas.
  - Ensure studios have appropriate and additional cleaning procedures of the premises in place.
  - Discard any unclaimed water bottles, hair accessories at the end of each day.
  - Encourage staff to regularly clean their own personal equipment including sunglasses, mobile phones, iPads and computers.

- Students should be returned following the class to the entrance of the building for collection whilst ensuring Child Safety policies and procedures are in place.

Links to further information available are below:

Australia wide

Australian Government – www.australia.gov.au

COVID Hotline –1800 020 080

Safe Work Australia – COVID-19 Resource Kit – www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/covid-19-information-workplaces

National COVID-19 Coordination Commission - www.pmc.gov.au/nccc

Ausdance - Return to Dance principles and framework for restarting dance activities post covid-19

Western Australia

WA Government website - www.wa.gov.au

WA Government Safety Plan for Sport and Recreation - /www.wa.gov.au/government/document-collections/covid-19-coronavirus-sport-and-recreation

WA Roadmap to Recovery Phase 3 https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/department-of-the-premier-and-cabinet/covid-19-coronavirus-wa-roadmap#phase3

Australian Capital Territory

ACT Government website – www.covid19.act.gov.au

ACT Restrictions and Advice Business Hubhttps://www.covid19.act.gov.au/business-hub/restrictions-and-advice

ACT Return to play in a COVID safe environment Framework
https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/1547560/Return-to-sport_Framework_0.1.pdf

ACT Government Recovery Plan
https://www.cmtedd.act.gov.au/open_government/inform/act_government_media_releases/barr/2020/canberras-recovery-plan-supporting-our-community-and-our-economy

ACT Government Business Resources https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/resources

South Australia

SA Government websitewww.covid-19.sa.gov.au

SA Government Create a COVID-Safe Plan https://www.covid-19.sa.gov.au/recovery/create-a-covid-safe-plan

Tasmania

TAS Government website www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au

TAS Roadmap to recovery https://www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au/families-community/roadmap-to-recovery

New South Wales

NSW Government website www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19

NSW Restrictions information https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/what-you-can-and-cant-do-under-rules

How to make your business COVID Safe Plan https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/safe-workplaces/employers#related-information

Posters and Signage Templates https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/industry-guidelines/posters-and-signage-for-business

Ausdance quote to increase capacity from 10 to 20 in Step 2.

https://www.facebook.com/ausdancensw/photos/a.1593516414266451/2672373636380718/?type=3&theater

Victoria

VIC Government website https://www.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-covid-19-restrictions-victoria

VIC Restrictions information https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/sport-cultural-and-recreational-activities-restrictions-coronavirus-covid19#which-recreational-facilities-are-restricted

Sport VIC Return to Play https://sport.vic.gov.au/our-work/return-to-play

Queensland

QLD Government website https://www.covid19.qld.gov.au/

QLD Roadmap to the Easing Restrictions https://www.covid19.qld.gov.au/government-actions/roadmap-to-easing-queenslands-restrictions/sport/fitness

QLD Government approved COVID Safe Industry Plan

https://www.covid19.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/130230/industry-covid-safe-plan-dance-physical-performing-arts.pdf

Northern Territory

NT Government website https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/

NT Roadmap to the New Normal https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/roadmap-new-normal#section2