

Guideline for Dance Competition Groups and Venues

This is a guideline and has been developed with venue, studio, competition representatives, and Actsafe's input.

It contains the best information we have to date (Friday, March 19, 2021) which may be subject to change. The document is created in a living format and may be updated without notice. Keep an eye on public health orders at provincial and regional levels as their requirements must be met.

Limit in-person meetings as able.

Having a studio or competition plan approved by the medical health officer does not mean that the plan will be acceptable to WorkSafeBC or the venue. It is only one step in the process of holding a safe event.

The biggest keys to a successful dance competition or studio rental at a venue now is understanding what the current [legal requirements](#) are and working together to ensure a safe environment for all participants, workers, organizers, and support persons for each event.

As we are operating in a quickly changing environment, adaptability and creativity will also be required.

This document is designed to help competitions and studios engage venues to address some of the most common concerns regarding these events. It is not an exhaustive list of items to be covered, and what is acceptable or questionable on day one of a competition may not be acceptable on subsequent days.

Before booking the space both groups are to **(read the following two sections)**:

- Engage early to discuss COVID-19 requirements such as:
 - Development of an event specific COVID-19 Safety Plan. [See Actsafe COVID planning documents](#).
 - Apply the current [mask mandate](#).
 - Be prepared to share existing safety plans with each other as a starting point.
 - The venue's safety plan will take precedence; some items may need to be aligned. Cooperation is key!
 - Safety plans may need adjustment as the event continues while we learn how to be safer or as requirements change.
 - Competitions and studios may request entrances/exits for stage and venue, or ask what the stage capacity is –a map may be helpful.

Venue:

- **Before:**
 - Any guidelines or controls that competition organizers are required to follow need to be posted and made available publicly.
 - Ensure COVID plans are reviewed and clear **BEFORE** confirmation of the event.
 - Communicate that:
 - People who are ill, have symptoms, have been told to isolate, are awaiting a COVID-19 test result, have tested positive, have been told to self isolate by public health, or have travelled and are required to quarantine are prohibited from the site.
 - Prior to entry to the facility on **each entry:**
 - Hand washing or hand sanitization is required.
 - Masks required.
 - A daily confirmation of health and contact tracing information must be collected for everyone on site prior to entry.
 - Start conversations with the competitions early, and if studios are renting space individually, communicate with them early too.
 - Develop capacity numbers to provide to competitions and studios.
 - 3 metre spacing is considered good practice for athletic activities (dance, warm-up, singing as examples) in various spaces (stage, backstage, if available warm-up spaces, etc.).
 - Actsafe recommends a maximum group number of six (6). This will give organizers a firm number to pass along to participants.
 - Limit contact as much as possible.
 - Make a rule that the wings cannot be used for groups to stand by. This will limit the contact between groups during performance and give performers a clear exit when finished, reducing exposure.
 - Have clear language regarding props/scenery. If there are props on site, ensure the client's COVID plan addresses handling and sanitizing.
- **During:**
 - Role model activities such as keeping ill people away, maintaining physical distance, wearing masks, and frequent cleaning.
 - Be prepared to participate in a welcoming COVID-19 safety talk with the competition to cover items in your combined COVID-19 planning.
 - Understand how non-compliance with the plan should be monitored and managed between venues and competitions or studios.
 - Assist with people movement throughout the facility and off-site.
- **After:**
 - Ensure load-out and cleaning activities agreed upon are undertaken – this will be best managed with a checklist.
 - Monitor and encourage the prevention of congregation of people post event with competitions and studios assistance.

Competitions:

- **Before:**
 - Develop a COVID-19 plan and controls for your event.
 - Remember, your plan must *meet or exceed* the venues COVID plan.
 - Capacity numbers provided by the venue are **non-negotiable**.
 - Competitions and studios should develop choreography with physical distance in mind (based on 3 metres); limiting time in close contact is a great way to prevent transmission of COVID-19.
 - Microphones and props may also be restricted or limited. Venues or competitions may place restrictions based on a variety of reasons.
 - Warm-up spaces and staging for groups may not be available.
 - Audience, event staff, adjudicators, wardrobe, and other support persons may be prohibited or limited.
 - Provide information regarding the event's COVID-19 Safety Plan (and map if available) to your groups and people via email/notices/signage.
 - Plan on having a physically distanced (mask wearing) briefing on the day of and invite a venue representative.
 - Consider awards or deductions for studios based on compliance with COVID-19 safety protocols – they make the difference.

- **During:**
 - Studios and competitions must work with the venues to monitor and enforce the COVID-19 Safety Plan throughout the event/rental and the space, including departure – preventing congregation is key!
 - Implement current [mask mandate](#).
 - Limit contact as much as possible.
 - When not in performance:
 - Expect that distance is to be kept and masks are to be worn.
 - Face shields are **not acceptable**.
 - Competitions and studios should expect to assist in new frequent cleaning and sanitization requirements as such:
 - Handwashing and sanitizing opportunities for their people.
 - Cleaning of items before and after use by a person or studio
 - microphones, dressing rooms, props, costumes, scenery, furniture as applicable.
 - supplies provided by a person or groups (consider training).

- **After:**
 - Ensure load-out and cleaning activities agreed upon are undertaken – this will be best managed with a checklist.
 - Monitor and encourage the prevention of congregation of people post event with venues. This includes loading areas and parking lots.