

Return to Dance Guidance

Webinar 2 'What you need to know to get back to the studio'

One Dance UK & NIDMS Expert Panel

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Chair: Christopher Rodriguez

Panellists: Erin Sanchez, Nick Allen, Jasmine Challis, Roger Wolman.

Live Q&A

1. Time Point: 21:28

Q. Do **risk assessments** need signing off after each class?

A. [JC] No. Unless something changes, the same risk assessment may be used for as long as the information on it is relevant to the circumstances and up to date. Keep on file and amend in the light of change of developments.

[CR] Yes, you don't need to write a new one after every class.

2. Time Point: 22:23

Q. Are **visors** safer than **masks**?

A. [NA] Based on feedback from ballet companies we would encourage the use of masks – this is a more practical way of delivering class and mitigating risk where there will be high expiration rates.

3. Time Point: 23:33

Q. Can you clarify the **spacing** needed for dance classes in a **hired community hall** (in metres)? How does spacing relate to the air flow of the hall?

A. [RW] Risk increases with rapid breath and with decreased distance. A room with high ceilings and open-air flow will reduce risk. Based on research, ideally this distance should be 3 meters if breathing rapidly.

[NA] The government have commissioned research into the aerobiology of COVID-19 in relation to our sector (likely to be released within the next week or two).

[JC] Dancers should only be dancing at this point, not signing and dancing. Different guidance applies in relation to singing, brass and wind instrument which increases the social distance to 3-6m.

4. Time Point: 28:35

Q. Will an air purifier suffice when there is no **air ventilation**?

A. [JC] No. An air purifier will not filter out COVID-19. Proper fresh air flow is ideal.

5. Time Point: 29:10

Q. Do you need to **wash floors** between sessions in outdoor environments? An open-sided marquee for example?

A. [RW] The risk of the virus remaining on the ground surface will be reduced in conditions whereby it is humid, sunny, or if there is a breeze.

[NA] The floor is in receipt of viral load in that the virus is expired and drops to the floor. Dancers use the floor a lot and we should therefore consider this a common touch point and potential source/surface of transmission. Indoor floors should be cleaned between sessions and left to dry so as dancers are not working on wet, slippery surfaces.

6. Time Point: 31:00

Q. What is the advice in relation to teachers and **fixed groups**?

A. [NA] It is recognised that within our sector we cannot always socially distance (in the case of a pas de deux for example). If the teacher is socially distanced from the groups, this is a means of mitigation. If this is not possible however, then the teacher should not be travelling to other fixed groups.

7. Time Point: 32:23

Q. If I have three studios, can I have three **bubbles** in the building at one time?

A. [NA] Yes, but don't pop bubbles! In this case, you should not be entering more than one of those bubbles.

8. Time Point: 32:47

Q. What are the **insurance** implications if my students are wearing **masks**?

A. [CR] In addition to relying on and reviewing your policy, you should speak with your insurance broker – premiums may be affected.

[NA] This is being looked into. More information will hopefully come soon.

[JC] Ensure that your risk assessments are in place and are in-line with the guidance.

9. Time Point: 35:39

Q. Is **contact improv and partner work** allowed?

A. [NA] In a professional environment only, yes, this is allowed at this current stage but it is only to take place within a fixed group.

10. Time Point: 39:13

Q. To put in place **distancing**, can removable/temporary markers be used if the venue is multipurpose? Or do these needs to be permanently established?

A. [NA] Yes, you may use removable/temporary space markers as opposed to fixed (such as taping). The markers exist to create awareness and to serve as a reminder for distance and space.

11. Time Point: 40:08

Q. Might the use of fans improve **ventilation**?

A. [JC] This will not be of benefit without fresh air flow and may potentially move/disturb moist COVID infected air around the studio.

[RW] If you have a high ceiling however, this may be useful in diluting the air at body level.

12. Time Point: 41:16

Q. Can conservatoires allow **contact** classes from September with student in **fixed groups**?
How will this work if those within these fixed groups do not live together?

A. [NA] Yes – in a professional environment we are allowed to put ourselves in positions whereby we are not socially distanced (including contact and pas de deux etc). If one dancer from a fixed group experiences symptoms or tests positive, their whole fixed group should self-isolate, as well as their residential/living partner if they are a part of a separate fixed group. This is about risk mitigation as opposed to risk elimination.

13. Time Point: 42:52

Q. When **teaching**, should the teacher face away from/have their back to the students?

A. [NA] Where possible yes, reducing possible viral load for the class. Demonstrate in front, from a socially distanced position – this will form a part of risk mitigation.

14. Time Point: 43:34

Q. How can a community dance practitioner **protect** themselves **legally** and **medically** when working on behalf of multiple contractors?

A. [NA] Follow the guidance from both a medical and practical point of view. Continue to socially distance and wear a mask.

[CR] It is unlikely that, as a freelancer, you will be entitled to statutory sick pay - this will likely be at the discretion of the contractor. You may consider universal credit should you need to take a break.

15. Time Point: 44:52

Q. Where can I find more resources on **insurance**? I employ multiple dancers.

A. [CR] As an employer you will need an employee liability certificate. Speak to an insurance company about comprehensive package cover.

16. Time Point: 46:12

Q. Regarding **sanitisers** and children

A. [JC] Sanitisers should be 70% alcohol and we should consider children's safety.

17. Time Point: 47:00

Q. If students have no windows or natural **air circulation**, should classes not take place there?

A. [RW] This is not an ideal situation – risk mitigation may require less people to be in that room and increased distancing may need to be in place (e.g. 4-6m).

18. Time Point: 48:09

Q. Regarding **travelling** in the space

A. [ES] Next week (Friday) we will be holding a session that will be devoted to social distancing and how dance classes can be best structured. There is no direct research in

dance as of yet that relates to how aerosols move as people move.

[RW] From current studies on runners we know that one of the most detrimental things to do is to be directly behind another runner, as you then enter that person's breathing space immediately after them. The same principal should be applied and considered for dance – avoiding direct/straight lines.

19. Time Point: 51:43

Q. If all of my pupils are wearing face shields/masks, can we come within 2 metres from one another?

A. [JC] Whilst a mask will mitigate risk, there would be no zero risk and we are trying to avoid transmission.

[RW] Another factor for consideration when deciding what level of risk we are prepared to accept - if an individual carries any comorbidities that may increase their risk of having a severe COVID disease (such as obesity, diabetes, asthma), then risk mitigation needs to be taken more seriously.

20. Time Point: 53:23

Q. Do you have further advice on **outdoor shoes in dance spaces**?

A. [RW] Recent reports of viral load on shoes suggests that we should perhaps be more vigilant in cleaning our shoes when we come indoors.

[ES] In dance contexts specifically, floors are high touch surfaces (for floorwork etc). As a precaution, it may be worth removing outdoor shoes before entering a dance space. Ensure the floor is cleaned well between different groups using the same space, and also provide hand sanitiser.

21. Time Point: 55:30

Q. **Fixed teams and bubbles** - if we social distance at 2m, can we then swap bubbles?

A. [NA] Yes, as long as you are maintaining a 2-metre distance you would not be considered as entering or being a part of that bubble. The greater the interaction though, the higher the risk.