



National Governing Body of DanceSport, Member
Organization of the US Olympic Committee, and the
World DanceSport Federation



May 18, 2020

To: Chapter Leaders
Re: COVID-19 Chapter Event Procedures

As states and localities begin to "open up" under COVID-19, USA Dance asks that you proceed cautiously as you consider re-establishing your dances. We all know, there is no "social distancing" in dancing, even line dancing. We all want to start dancing again and realize the mental, social, and physical benefits that dancing provides. Regardless of our sense of urgency, there needs to be a common sense approach based on medical science.

Whenever we are in social environments we can be exposed to contagious diseases such as influenza, the common cold, and now COVID-19. This is a risk that we accept. As you announce your dances, it is important to make your dancers aware of these risks. USA Dance assumes no risk to any exposures that may occur at USA Dances or USA Dance activities. The following is a disclaimer that Chapters should include on their signup sheets:

I understand and agree to these conditions for participation in USA Dance events: Dance is a physical activity that includes close physical contact with other participants. Like all such physical activities, dance carries some degree of risk. USA Dance cannot be held liable for injuries or illnesses sustained by persons attending the event. Persons attending the event do so at their own risk. USA Dance is not responsible for injury or illnesses or for any loss, damage, or theft of articles from event facilities during events.

Timeframe

These recommendations and considerations remain in effect until the USA Dance Board of Directors believes new guidance is warranted to protect the health of our members and non-members who attend our events.

Recommended Safety Considerations

Since COVID-19 rules and guidance are being made at the state, county, city, and municipal level, it is impossible for the USA Dance to create a policy that is one-size fits all. Therefore, we are asking each USA Dance Chapter to develop and implement a plan to comply with required or recommended procedures that apply to your location including Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations.



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We encourage all of our members to review any and all state, county, city and local requirements along with CDC recommendations for indoor activities, particularly those for large events.

The USA Dance Board of Directors asks that each Chapter:

- Develop a plan for each public event. These documented plans should be shared with members and other persons attending your events. If required they should also be shared with local authorities. Please send a copy of this document to your district director and social-vp@usadance.org.
- These plans should address:
 - Social distancing when required.
 - Controlling and maintaining the number of participants if your locality has a requirement that no more than "XX" people may gather collectively at a given time. The Chapter's plan should ensure that this requirement is met.
 - Other required steps as defined for your location.
 - Please see the attachment for further guidance considerations.

Final Remarks

These suggested approaches are not meant to be all-inclusive. Chapters are responsible for developing whatever plan(s) necessary to enable them to meet Federal, State, County, and Local public health requirements. Use common sense, do the right thing, and encourage members and others to stay at home if they are not feeling well.

We ask that all members please adhere to the intent and spirit of these recommendations and help to protect all who would be attending your dance from the infection of this virus. We are all in this together.

Please continue to keep yourself, your loved ones and dancers safe and healthy until our new "normal" is better defined.

Thank you very much for all you do for USA Dance and our members.

Gary Stroick
President
USA Dance, Inc.



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Other Guidance Considerations

Event Participant Guidance explains the event and most importantly, describes the process the Chapter is using to meet any government requirements regarding people who attend the event. Each participant should be notified of this guidance and receive a copy if requested. A Chapter's announcement for an event might address the following depending on local requirements:

- **Safety Measures** - Explain the safety measures that will ensure safe distancing and contribute to recommended hygiene, for example:
 - **Parking** - Participants park with more space than usual between vehicles.
 - **Encourage** - The use of hand sanitizer and/or gloves by all participants and volunteers.
 - **Minimize shared materials** – If used, consider how to minimize or eliminate dance cards and the shared use of writing instruments. Substitute dancers filling out dance cards with a volunteer filling them out during the event.
 - **Personal Protection Equipment** -Request that all participants bring safety supplies in accordance with government (Federal, State, County, & Local) requirements (i.e., masks, hand sanitizer, cleaning wipes, etc.) The Chapter should also have a supply of personal protective equipment (for example, masks if a local requirement) and disinfection products. Assign one or more volunteers to wipe down areas or equipment that multiple people will touch Include public restrooms, chairs and tables. At the check in area, minimize the use of shared equipment and disinfect areas like the tabletop, clipboards and pens.
- **Check-in** - To ensure that safe distances can be maintained, can personal separation be marked out for people waiting in line to check in to the event?
 - **Use sign-up sheets** - To ensure a record of all participants and attendees to each event. These are to be given to local public health officials, if requested for contact tracing. Chapters should ensure that they have a record of the names and contact information of all who attend their event(s). Please keep the record of attendees for at least thirty (30) days or as required by public health officials.
- **When in doubt remain home** - Insist that members who are ill, for any reason, or are at risk remain home.