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Music. Theatre. Passion. Igniting the creative talents of young performers.

SaskExpress Saskatoon 2020 - 2021
COVID-19 Response & Policy

COVID-19 RESPONSE

In an effort to help flatten the curve and protect the health and safety of our community, the SaskExpress Studio closed in mid-March. While we are extremely excited to re-open our doors to welcome both new and returning families, we have been diligent in defining new processes to ensure a safe return to the studio. We remain committed to providing an inclusive, inspiring, and family friendly space for all of our students, while keeping health and safety a top priority for our studio families, staff, and community. We have created a plan with the current health and safety information available from government and public health officials and will continue to update our processes and communication to remain aligned with these recommendations. We thank you for your cooperation as we continue to navigate this new normal for the studio.

INSPIRING NEW BEGINNINGS

We look forward to working with our staff and students to find new opportunities, create new milestones, and ultimately start new beginnings with new health and safety protocols in place:

1) *Point your toes, but don't touch your nose (or anyone else's!)*

- We ask that all families educate their dancers about the new policies and physical distancing measures in place at the studio. While in class, students will be expected to stay within their designated area, keeping their hands to themselves. Instructors will wear face masks or shields, as deemed appropriate by public health officials. Due to the nature of singing, students enrolled in musical theatre or vocal technique classes will do this portion of learning online, or if deemed safe in class but required to wear a face shield or behind a plexiglass shield that is cleaned and sanitized after each use.

2) *Dancing apart, yet closer in heart*

- Class sizes and placements will be designed to adhere to relevant physical distancing and gathering restrictions. Since we have one entrances at the SaskExpress Studio we will ensure class times and arrivals are staggered for safety and to eliminate lobby congestion. In addition we have multiple washroom facilities, and plan to use these features to help facilitate the flow of traffic and allow for continual sanitization.

3) *Be wise, sanitize*

- Students and staff will sanitize or wash their hands upon entry into the building and after every class. All frequently touched surfaces (ie. door knobs, ballet barres, mats, bottle fill station) will be sanitized between every class.

4) *The lobby is closed for business*

- Our hallway and parent waiting area will be closed until further notice. We ask parents of young dancers to please bring your little one to the lobby and we will have staff and assistants waiting who will then ensure that your child's belongings are carefully put away and your child goes to their studio. Dancers with breaks in their schedule may remain in the designated dancer area which will be continually supervised and sanitized. Please

note remaining at the studio will only be permitted in between classes - dancers who are done class are asked to be picked up promptly. Young dancers with a 15 minute break between classes will be able to remain in their designated studio until their next class starts.

5) If you're sick, stay home

- If you are exhibiting **any** symptoms of illness, **do not** come to dance class. Please email lorna@saskexpress.com to notify us of any absences; all attendance policies have been amended with illness considered an exemption.

- Families will be responsible for self-monitoring dancers for COVID-19 symptoms identified by public health authorities, disclosing any positive symptoms to the studio, and not attending studio events. An additional screening tool may be implemented. We will have increased online resources to help our families stay connected with our programming should the need arise for a student to stay home.

- Instructors and studio staff will also stay home in the event of any symptoms of illness and staff will wear masks while engaging with students.

6) It may be touch, but don't share your stuff

- Sharing of food, hair accessories, dance attire, or other personal belongings will not be permitted at the studio. We will also not be able to provide shared treats to any classes, so please avoid bringing birthday cupcakes, Halloween candy, etc.. Our water bottle filling station will be available to students and will be cleaned after every class. We do ask that, all dancers please bring a water bottle to class, but please avoid bringing any other unnecessary personal items from home. Please note CELL PHONES are for emergency communication only and will not be allowed in class.

7) Be on time, every time

- Dancers are to arrive dressed for class to limit traffic in and out of our public washroom facilities and enter the studio no more than 5 minutes before their class starts. Parents entering the building to pick up young dancers at the end of class are required to wait until the class is over to enter the building; the studio has a parking lot and many street parking spaces available for the convenience of parents who would like to wait in their vehicles. It is appreciated that all efforts are made to spend as little time in the studio hallways as possible. We appreciate your effort to pick up your dancer promptly at the end of class.