

Beware: Just putting the minimum safety requirements in place may not be enough to keep your Dance school open.



I have observed with some surprise, the lack of safety consciousness displayed by some teachers on social media in regard to the need for COVID-19 compliant safety measures in their studios. I would like to add a note of caution to those who feel that just the minimum safety requirements (or none at all) will do... they won't.

Many of you may feel that the safety measures advised by the government cover you against all legal eventualities, which may be true. However, this shouldn't be your main concern; there are far more deep-seated reasons to be ultra-safe during the present pandemic.

If your patrons see that you are doing everything that you can to keep them safe and well, whilst delivering a fulfilling and enjoyable service by going that extra mile, such care will instill confidence and loyalty within your dance community and inspire repeat custom (especially with your more vulnerable clientele).

I recently visited a dance studio, to assist with their extra measures which include:

- Face covering whilst queuing.
- Social distancing and no touch buzzer entry.
- One-way ingress and egress system.

- Non-contact temperature checking and Test and Trace questions.
- Hand sanitizing/washing stations at various marked locations.
- Studio deep clean before start of classes and interim disinfecting between sessions.
- Clear signage throughout building.
- Clearly marked individual dance space.
- Doors and windows in dance space open for maximum ventilation.

One parent commented when I asked about the system: “ [This is really brilliant, and I feel safe leaving my children here](#)”. What better commendation do you need?

I know that this has been an extremely trying year for the Dance industry and the world as a whole. Everyone is keen to get their businesses back up and running. However, duty of care should be paramount. We live in unprecedented times so we should be preparing now for the future as it is uncertain that we will ever return totally to the way we were at the beginning of last March.

If social dancing and movement across the floor is at any time going to create a possibility of infection, it should be avoided. If a dancer is desperate to move around the room with more freedom, this could be taken as an opportunity to offer a (still socially distanced) one to one session where movement around the room is less restricted. Try to turn the negatives into positives at every opportunity.

You are not a medical expert or a scientific advisor, nor a risk manager or insurer but you do know about dance and the inherent risks of the pandemic. You also know when something is safe and when it is not, given your experience of life over the past six months.

The danger of Covid-19 is still very real and should not be dealt with flippantly, we cannot afford to be complacent. Covid-19 is not visible, neither can you smell it or hear it. We may be living with this for some time and we need to do everything we can to stop the spread.

It will take time and effort to organise and implement a new way of working. Once you have grasped the basics of this, you will find many ways of improving your business and creating new best practice whilst we hopefully move forward to a more sustainable normal.