

THE LEARNING LAB

SAFER STUDIO

guidelines

FOR STUDENTS

WE PUT OUR  INTO IT



Tara Pickford, Owner of Ambition Performing Arts was one of three studio owners to spearhead the Guidelines for Dance and Performing Arts in the reopening of Alberta.

She was instrumental in gathering a collective of over 100 Alberta Arts Studios that supported the initiatives to ensure they were seen and heard by the Ministers of Sport, Arts and Culture and over 60 MLA's province-wide.

The following document is the result of that immense body of research and advocating to ensure our student and staff safety is at the forefront of all our initiatives moving forward. Your family will enjoy the benefits of being a part of setting the gold standard in our industry.



SYMPTOMS AND WELLNESS CHECKS

- Students should remain home if they have a fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, or have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 10 days. [Information from the Government of Alberta can be found here: https://www.alberta.ca/coronavirus-info-for-albertans.aspx](https://www.alberta.ca/coronavirus-info-for-albertans.aspx)
- Students showing any of the above symptoms will not be able to attend class.
- Parents and students will be asked for a verbal wellness check and possible temperature check at the time of arrival to verify that the student is not experiencing any symptoms and that he/she has not been directly exposed to COVID.



MASKS AND FACE COVERINGS

- The City of Airdrie at the time of publication has not enforced masks. At this time masks are optional, however, they are strongly recommended at check in and exit of the premises.
- APA Staff will remain masked as often as it is possible.
- We have a hierarchy of best practices that we have put into place to provide students with a safer environment and to help keep us learning together!

- All staff members and volunteers of APA are currently required to wear a mask at all times while interacting with others. Staff members and volunteers can remove their masks when they are working alone in a room or when they are actively eating or drinking and physically distanced from others.
- Adults and Children over the age of 2 are recommended by AHS to wear masks when possible such as: drop off, pick up and waiting for class. [Information from the Government of Alberta on the Masks for Albertans program can be found here: https://www.alberta.ca/masks.aspx](https://www.alberta.ca/masks.aspx)
- Students will be provided a bag to put their mask in if they remove it during class. Any masks (cloth or disposable) left behind will be disposed of in the trash at the end of the night.
- Please discuss your family choices with your child before class. If your child is not allowed to remove their mask during class please let our team know in advance. Students who are unmasked **MAY BE** considered in direct contact if someone in their class becomes COVID positive and may need to quarantine for 2 weeks.
- APA has adult and kid size disposable masks available for staff and students upon request at a cost of \$1.50.
- We look forward to the day when we can phase out masking requirements and enjoy everyone's smiles in classes!



GETTING READY FOR CLASS

- Students should wear clothing that is comfortable for sitting in their desk, layers such as a T-shirt with sweater will help student comfort.
- Students should wear clean indoor shoes on the premises.
- Students may arrive in sweaters or jackets as needed for the weather.

- Please pack all the water and food/snacks your students needs for the day. There will be no sharing or providing of food. please bring 1 -2 waterbottles already filled as there are no water filling stations at this time.
- Clearly label all of the students item with his/her name



DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP

- It is strongly encouraged to wear a mask during drop-off and pick-up.
- Wait in your car until 5 minutes before class and the prior class is dismissed then enter by elevator doors.
- Students will line up in the lobby on the markers and will exit to the markers when they are dismissed. Please help reinforce with your child the room colour they will be in (Green Orange Blue Pink). It will not change from week to week.
- Temperature checks and verbal wellness screenings will take place during check-in.
- Students will wash or sanitize hands as they enter and exit the classroom.
- Students who also have a class later in the day with APA will be issued a wristband indicating they have been screened for the day.



SYMPTOMS DEVELOP DURING CLASS

- Any students that develop symptoms during class will have their parent or guardian called to be picked up.
- Headaches, tummy aches, sore throat, cough, runny nose, fever, and the common “I don’t feel good” will all be causes for the student to go home. Students who are sent home need to be symptom free for at least 72 hours before returning to class.

Please don’t cry wolf! While some students, big and small, tend to get an “upset tummy” when they experience difficulty or a hard subject or lesson, please remind them that they will need to be sent home even if they were just hoping to take a break during class.

- Teach them to ask for a break rather than defaulting to not feeling well. They will be isolated and extra effort and precautions will be taken immediately when a child says they are unwell. This may be scarier than asking for a break properly.



RESTROOM USE

- We have increased our bathroom sanitization (after each use). Restrooms are assigned to each classroom to facilitate contact tracing. Please teach your child to know which one to use if they need to. Remember to use the restroom at home before coming.



BREAKS BETWEEN CLASSES

- Students will be offered breaks during the day to stand up, stretch and refocus.
- Students will be offered a morning break, lunch break and afternoon break. These breaks will occur inside of their designated classroom and will be distanced from their peers.



CAN FAMILY AND FRIENDS ENTER INTO THE STUDIO?

- Our lobby is currently closed.
- As per AHS Stage 2 Guidelines, we have to maintain 50% occupancy in order to serve our students. Parents will not be permitted to stay.
- Need assistance? No Problem! Our team is here to help you! You can reach us by email or phone and we can serve you curbside or set up a meeting time!



CONTINUOUS PARENT COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

- The Continuous Parent Communication System (CPCS) uses a Red, Yellow, Green light system to communicate the status of classes.
 - **GREEN** - Face-to-Face classes as usual.
 - **YELLOW** - A cautionary change to service delivery or additional safety guidelines in place. We are in stage 2 at the time of publication. Offering both in-person small classes and tech-enabled studios for Zoom and recorded class experiences for those who need it.
 - **RED** - Class is cancelled and students will be safer at home for learning.
- Where can I find the phases and up-to -date studio information?
 - APA sends out weekly communication in the “Weekly Wednesday” email, delivered right to your inbox.
 - Visit the APA website or our Facebook page for updates and past communication.
 - Emails are sent in case of last minute changes or closures.
 - Facebook will be updated regularly with the current status and date.



FACILITY ADJUSTMENTS

- All adjustments have been made with the success and safety of the students in mind.
- Each classroom has been set up and marked with spaces that allow for physical distancing between students.
- All class sizes have been reduced to allow students to maintain the current recommended physical distancing during class.
- Students will sit at tables and chairs that have been distanced in the classrooms.

NEW NORMAL CHECKLIST

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

- Ensure your laptop is charged for the day.
- Gather your laptop and charger.
- Ensure you have all textbooks, pens, pencils, notebooks and resources required for the day ahead.
- Fill your water bottle at home - our water stations are not available for use at this time.
- Be sure to pack a nutritious lunch and snacks. There will be no sharing of food.
- Only bring items you need to class, everything has to fit in a small bin.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

- Enter at main elevator doors.
- Wash hands or use hand sanitizer at arrival.
- Place ALL items in a bin - including footwear and jackets.
- Find a disDANCE dot to wait on.
- Wait to be invited into the classroom.
- Go to your assigned chair in the room, this spot will always be the same.
- Have fun in class and listen to the rules :)
- Students who finish their work early will be given access to our Leadership program.
- Gather items back into your bin.
- Return bin for sanitizing.
- Wash hands or use hand sanitizer.
- Exit down small stairwell between Pizza and Pet Store.

FEATURES

- Student self serve cart:
Band-aids, Kleenex, Hair ties, Ziplock bags for masks, Sick kits
- HEPA Air Filters in each classroom
- Barrier in the office
- Enhanced cleaning throughout class and end of day
- Facility adjustments
- Small classes
- Teachers masked as much as possible
- Tech-enabled classrooms
- Assigned bathrooms for each room to help with contact tracing, sanitization after each use
- Signage for all the new protocols

