

Sept 7th, 2021

Dear POD Families,

Welcome back! We are excited to begin another amazing season at the Power Of Dance. As the leaders of our studio, we are so excited to have our kids and teachers back in the building sharing community and the joy of dance! Unfortunately, we also have the great responsibility of navigating a continuously changing situation as it relates to Covid-19.

Since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, the POD has done our best to provide clear communication and real-time decision-making. This has allowed us to offer continuous programming in our 2020-2021 season providing consistent access to the benefits of dance such as physical fitness, social-emotional health, and mental wellness.

Now for the responsibility part. At POD, we make all of our Covid-related decisions based on a variety of inputs, including local and national sources, as well as industry and studio data. Each day, we search the data, and track the trends. We also consult with our county, speak with other community leaders, and discuss best options with our staff family. We are pleased to say that POD has done extremely well in terms of cases last year and through-out our summer season. Our community, however, is not doing as well. The cases reported lately are on an upward trend and the 7-day average is one we have not seen since February.

Therefore: the following policies will be put into place beginning immediately. These policies may be escalated if cases continue to rise.

- Masking is required by all persons over the age of 5 or in any 5 and older class while entering and exiting the building and while in any common spaces (hallways, bathrooms, store, lobby, etc.)
- Masking is strongly recommended for ages 3-5 in these common areas as well.
- Teachers will spread kids out in the classroom and children may remove masks while in class if they wish. If you would like us to give a gentle reminder to your child to keep his/her mask on, just let us know.
- The Lobby is Open but we ask parents to please wait for your child outside the building unless he/she is in a preschool class. This will allow us to keep the congestion down and traffic clear.
- Students will enter the studio through the main entrance, sanitize, bring a bin with shoes back to their studio, and exit after class through each studio separately.

We will continue monitoring the situation week by week and will make you aware of any changes. If community cases continue to rise, potential escalation of policies may include closing the lobby entirely to reduce traffic, further limiting class sizes, greater physical distancing requirements in classes, and/or masking requirements for all ages.

In closing, we fully understand this message will cause relief for some and disappointment for others. Some will think it's too much and others may think it's not enough. This is the nature of the times we live in. But, it's also in our nature to adapt and to support each other. Our kids are mirrors of our reactions and emotions, so let's focus on what's positive! In a time when so many in our country have lost everything, we have much to be thankful for. Thank YOU for your support!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth & Theresa