

# BARRISKILL

dance theatre school

## Fall Plan 2020

(updated Jan. 2021)

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# OVERVIEW

Against a backdrop of uncertainty, this document outlines the current plans for the 2020-21 dance year at Barriskill Dance Theater School. As you read through these plans, please keep four points in mind:

## 1. Expect Changes

We recognize that parents need to plan for the fall. However, our decisions are based on a variety of factors related to COVID-19, local school decisions, as well as input we received from the surveys we sent to our Barriskill families. Things will continue to change quickly - both in the few weeks before the start of school, and once the year begins - and we will continue to update our plans and keep parents informed with clear and transparent communication.

## 2. We Rely On Experts

The decisions and plans outlined here have roots in guidelines and recommendations from the CDC, the NC Department of Health & Human Services, the Durham County Department of Public Health, and the State's recommendations for teaching the Arts in NC.

## 3. We Continue to Prioritize Safety

On May 27, 2020, fifty-three national arts and education organizations across the United States joined together in a statement to **Support Arts Education as Essential for Students during COVID-19 Pandemic**. This document outlines several measures aimed at risk mitigation during this pandemic. Full buy-in and adherence to these new protocols by all constituents will be required to make dancing in the studio successful this year.

## 4. The Barriskill Mission and Core Values Continue to Guide Our Work

While much will look different at Barriskill this year, we continue to place our mission and core values at the heart of our decision making. In particular, we are anticipating ways to address the social/emotional needs of our students in order to ensure that Barriskill remains a place where every student and teacher feels safe and cared for.

# TWO SCHEDULES

**\*\*We plan to offer both in person classes and classes via Zoom\*\***

## **#1 - In-Person Classes at Barriskill**

Barriskill will follow CDC and state guidelines for opening in-person for the 2020-21 school year . **According to the latest guidelines, we have determined that the studio is prepared to open safely and continue to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic.**

Given the likelihood that a vaccine will not be available for some time, we recognize that some families may want or need an option for their children to participate in dance remotely. Barriskill will provide a Zoom class schedule option for families that consider this to be the best choice for their family during the pandemic.

Students who are required to stay at home for an extended period due to COVID symptoms or a positive test can participate in Zoom classes (unless the entire class has transitioned to Zoom).

## **#2 - Zoom Classes**

Barriskill will transition to 100% Zoom Class schedule if (a) it is mandated by the Governor; or (b) the Administration determines this to be a prudent course of action given local conditions, recommendations from local public health as well as our expert consultants, the health of the Barriskill faculty, and/or number of cases within the Barriskill/Durham community. When in-person instruction is not feasible, Barriskill will remain committed to fostering the health and well-being of each student while promoting high dance engagement and offering individualized support. The Barriskill faculty have worked extensively this summer to remain creative about classes on zoom and flexible with our families' needs.

Additionally, there may be scenarios that call for a particular class to move to Zoom classes for a period of time while the rest of the school remains safely open. For more information on this, see Exposure Protocols at the end of this document.

## **START OF THE YEAR**

As previously mentioned, we plan to start the year with both an in-studio schedule and a zoom schedule. The first day of classes is Saturday, August 22.

If you wish to choose a hybrid option and enroll in some classes online and some in person, that will be allowed but will require case-by-case negotiation.

## **RISK MITIGATION MEASURES**

## Social Distancing

Social distancing will be practiced to the fullest extent possible while at the studio. In preparation for this, the following changes have been made:

- Tape X's have been placed on the floor in each studio 6-8 feet apart.
- Tape markers will be placed on barres attached to the wall at least 6 feet apart. Students will use separate barres whenever possible.
- All in studio classes will be limited to 9 students.

***In PreSchool Classes*** As social distancing is increasingly challenging with younger children, we will schedule their classes in studios with doors leading directly outdoors so they can take outdoor face covering breaks (weather permitting).

## Masks & Face Coverings

All students, faculty/staff, and administrators will be required to wear a mask that covers both nose and mouth at all times when inside, and also when outside if engaged in an activity that places them within six feet of others. Additionally:

- Teachers will organize “mask breaks” as needed, where students can be properly socially distanced.
- Parents and caregivers should take the next several weeks to find masks that their children find comfortable, and also work to build “mask stamina” in their children. There are several dancewear companies that are making masks that our dancers have found easier to wear in class.
  - [Linden's](#) (next door) sells them.
  - Kim Aiken (who makes our preschool dance costumes for recital) also makes masks that are comfortable and can be found on her etsy site: [Masks Shop](#)
- Observations from Summer Programs suggest that when face coverings are too big students have difficulty wearing them properly. Along these lines, neck gaiters are NOT acceptable, and bandanas should not be worn. No face masks with valves are allowed.
- Barriskill will keep a supply of disposable masks as back-ups.

## Daily Health Screenings

Families and all faculty will be asked to complete a health screening before coming to dance each week. This will include questions about household exposure, as well as students and faculty

reporting any occurrence of the following symptoms:

- Fever (defined as 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher)
- Chills
- Shortness of breath and/or difficulty breathing
- New cough
- New loss of taste or smell

Anyone experiencing one or more of these symptoms will NOT be allowed to attend dance. In order for this to work, we need you all to be honest about your health and NOT send a child to class who doesn't feel well. Protocols for a student's return to school can be found under [Exposure Protocols](#).

In addition, all students and faculty/staff will undergo a temperature check before entering Barriskill each day. A reading of 100.4 or higher will result in the child being sent home. Temperature data will not be recorded or stored.

## **Personal/Hand Hygiene**

Students will be directed to wash their hands and/or use hand sanitizer upon entering the building and again once in the studio, and specifically after using the bathroom, or using shared materials. Additionally:

- Signs will be posted to offer visual reminders about hand hygiene.
- For hand sanitizing: Bottles will be placed in each classroom.
- Water Fountains will NOT be accessible. Please be sure to send your dancers with their own water bottles, labeled with their name.

## **Cleaning**

We have inserted breaks between classes to insure time to wipe down barres and equipment. We will also have air filtration systems in each studio.

While doors and windows will remain open whenever possible, doorknobs and other high-touch surfaces will be cleaned and sanitized regularly.

## **Parents/Visitors**

Access to Barriskill's building will be limited. Only students and Barriskill faculty/staff will be allowed to enter the building. Every person will need to pass a health screening and temperature check and wear a mask. We understand that this represents a significant change, particularly for parents who wait for their dancer in the hallway or lounge and we appreciate everyone's help with this risk mitigation

measure.

## **Outdoor Classes**

Younger dancers will take breaks outside as necessary. We are looking into the possibility of outdoor classes, although with weather being uncertain these classes will most likely be offered on a drop in basis.

## **Improved Air Quality**

We have a contract to have our HVAC units maintained regularly. In addition, air purifiers have been placed in some classrooms to help with air flow. Windows and doors will also be kept open whenever possible.

# **CHANGES TO PROCEDURES AND PROGRAMS**

All of these risk mitigation measures will require additional changes to some procedures and programs.

## **Drop-Off**

In order to better achieve social distancing and complete temperature checks, we need to stagger our drop off routines. We hope to accommodate that in our new in-studio schedule. Please arrive no more than 5 minutes before the start of your class. Please try to come dressed and ready to dance. If you absolutely must get dressed at the studio you may use the appropriate dressing room(s). However, the more students that can come prepared/dressed, the more room we'll have in those dressing rooms for those that need them.

Parents of younger students may escort their dancer(s) to the door closest to the studio they will be dancing in but will not be allowed in the building.

## **Pick-Up**

Please plan to meet your dancer in your car. For younger dancers, we will have socially distanced marks on the sidewalks outside to meet your dancers. The built in times between classes will also allow teachers to insure that each student gets to their parent safely.

## **Nutcracker**

We are committed to putting together a production of the Nutcracker this year despite the obstacles. We don't know exactly what that will look like yet, but have conceived of several possibilities.

We understand that many young dancers often look forward to participating in this production. Unfortunately, for the safety of all, only conservatory ballet dancers will be allowed to audition this year. This means levels 5 & up... We are looking into options for studio level dancers to work on a winter production in the classroom, much like a spring recital.

## **EXPOSURE PROTOCOLS**

### **Protocol For a Possible Case Of COVID**

A possible case might result from symptoms and/or exposure (close contact\*) to someone with COVID. Both of these are covered in the weekly health screening.

#### ***Someone experiencing close contact with a person who tests positive:***

- Must stay home and quarantine for 14 days (even with negative test)
- In the event of a confirmed case at Barriskill, the administration will contact and work with local health officials to determine who had been in close contact based on information from the teacher(s). Anyone identified as being in close contact will stay home for 14 days.

#### ***Someone experiencing one or more symptoms:***

- Must remain home until:
  - Being symptom-free for at least ten days, **OR**
  - Testing negative for COVID and being fever-free (without fever-reducing medication) and symptom-free for 24 hours, **OR**
  - Receiving confirmation of alternate diagnosis from a medical professional that would explain the COVID-like symptoms and being fever-free (without fever-reducing medication) and symptom-free for 24 hours.

#### ***If someone develops one or more symptoms during their time at Barriskill:***

- Students will be moved into an isolation room and wait there, while supervised, until a parent is available to pick them up.

## **Protocol for a Confirmed Case of COVID**

In the event of a confirmed positive case within the Barriskill student or faculty/staff community, BDTS will work with local health authorities and follow protocols established by the CDC.\* Specifically:

***With positive diagnosis from medical professional and/or positive test result:*** A person needs to stay home until it has been:

- 10 or more days since onset of symptoms,  
**AND**
- 3 or more days since fever (without use of fever-reducing medicine),  
**AND**
- 3 or more days since symptoms have improved

\* *CDC criteria for close contact (source):*

- *You were within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for at least 15 minutes.*
- *You provided care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19.*
- *You had direct physical contact with the person (touched, hugged, or kissed them).*
- *You shared eating or drinking utensils.*
- *They sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you.*

***In the event of a positive test but no symptoms:*** A person needs to stay home until it has been:

- 10 days since the date of the positive test.

***Steps taken by Barriskill in the event of a positive case among students or faculty/staff:***

- The Barriskill staff will notify local health authorities of the confirmed case.
- The staff will work with local authorities to immediately notify faculty and families while maintaining confidentiality in accordance with federal laws. As previously stated, the staff/faculty will work with authorities to determine who had been in close contact with the infected person.
- The staff will work with local authorities to determine what parts of the studio need to be closed, and for how long. It could be that certain classes would need to transition to Zoom for 1-2 days as areas are cleaned. A determination as to whether an entire class needs to quarantine will be reached in cooperation with health officials.



## PARENT CONTRACT: RISKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

As previously stated, having all constituents understand and adhere to all protocols and policies is a key component of a safe return to the studio. We all have a role to play in this. Parents will need to review and sign a document before the start of school .

### FLEXIBLE CALENDAR FOR 2020-21

#### 2020-2021 Flexible Dates

August 22, 2020	Saturday	BDTs Classes Start
<i>September 5- September 7, 2020</i>	<i>Saturday – Monday</i>	<i>Labor Day weekend – CLOSED</i>
September 12, 2020	Saturday	Nutcracker Auditions
<i>November 23-28, 2020</i>	<i>Monday – Saturday</i>	<i>Thanksgiving Week – CLOSED</i>
December 18-20, 2020	Friday-Sunday	Nutcracker Performances
<i>December 21, 2020 – January 3, 2021</i>		<i>Winter Break – CLOSED</i>
January 4, 2021	Monday	Classes Resume
<i>January 18, 2021</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>MLKJ Holiday – CLOSED</i>
<i>March 8-14</i>	<i>Monday-Saturday</i>	<i>Spring Recess – CLOSED</i>
March 15	Monday	Classes resume
<b>May 22 and 23, 2021</b>	<b>Saturday and Sunday</b>	<b>BDTS Recitals</b>

