



September 1, 2021

Dear Performing Arts School families:

Thank you for your interest in our programs and support of our school! We hope you have been staying safe and well.

Based on current CDC and state guidelines, the Performing Arts School (PAS) has open in a limited capacity for in-person instruction since October 2020. This has been incredibly awesome for our students!!

The health and safety of our students and families is our utmost priority, and we will continuously work together to provide the safest environment possible at our school. Through consultation with our partners in the field (i.e. board members, partner schools, partner performing arts organizations, etc.) we will follow the best practices and continue to be apprised of the ever-evolving situation with COVID-19.

The Performing Arts School will follow the guidance of the NJ State Government, as well as CDC guidelines for health and safety in our building at all times. If the Government mandates we close, all in-person instruction will pivot to online classes, and private lessons will continue as scheduled via Zoom. Tuition balances will be updated to reflect the online pricing (class schedule and tuition is available on our website or by emailing [bserico@bergenpac.org](mailto:bserico@bergenpac.org)). The school will stay closed until authorization is given to re-open. We will be in communication with you regularly as updates are needed, and we are here any time to answer any questions or hear your concerns.

In this document, we will outline in detail our enhanced operating procedures for in-person learning and instruction. Please read them thoroughly and sign the liability release to complete registration. *This document is not intended to be a substitute for professional medical advice.*

**Parents/Family Members:**

**Please note that no parent/family member is allowed inside the building until further notice.** If you need to reach your child during class, please call the front desk at 201-482-8194 x78 and a staff member will pick them up from class, bring them upfront to talk to you outside or on the phone.

### **Social Distancing and Safety Rules**

- Everyone is required to wear masks when inside the building. Gloves are not required by the CDC; however, they may be worn if teachers or students so choose.
- Plexiglass shields will be installed at the front desk as well as in all of the studios, so that the shield will be between students and teachers and staff at all times.
- Cameras will be located throughout, and staff members will constantly be monitoring them to make sure social distancing is being maintained in classrooms.
- Only one student is permitted in the lobby and lounge at a time.
- All students must follow social distancing protocols of staying six feet or further away from each other in hallways, bathrooms, and classrooms. Signs are posted throughout the building for guidance.
- Staff members will be monitoring the front and back of the building, lounge, and hallways constantly. Absolutely no physical contact between students will be allowed inside the building. If this occurs, i.e. holding hands, pushing, touching, or playing in any way, students will be asked to separate themselves immediately to at least six feet.
- Only one student is allowed in the bathroom at any given time.
- Students must wash hands after using the bathroom and must use hand sanitizer upon returning to class.
- Water: Students are not permitted to use the water coolers in the PAS. They must bring their own water bottles to class and may only use their own bottles.
- Illness: No students will be admitted to class if they are sick and are showing any cold or flu-like symptoms. Please keep children home if they are sick.
- Students must arrive to class on-time and properly dressed. No changing rooms or bathrooms will be permitted for changing until further notice.
- If a student, staff member or faculty member tests positive for COVID-19, the school community will be notified that there is a positive case, and the person will be required to quarantine at home for 14 days. They can return to school only when they receive negative test results.
- More information from the CDC can be found at the following link if you or a family member are sick: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/index.html>.
- Upon registration, families will be asked if the student or anyone in the family has tested positive for COVID-19, has been exposed or around them in any way, and if they are experiencing symptoms. Periodically throughout the school year, communications will go out to check in on families regarding this.
- The building will be thoroughly cleaned daily, including hallways, classrooms, bathrooms, lounge/kitchen area, front desk, storage bins, trash cans and floors. There will be time in-between classes to allow for thorough cleaning and touching up of all spaces.
- Hand sanitizer dispensers will be at front desk, in hallways and in each classroom.

### **Check-In/Drop Off Procedure:**

- All students must register in advance of class. No student will be permitted inside the building who is not pre-registered. Email [bserico@bergenpac.org](mailto:bserico@bergenpac.org) for questions.
- Upon registration, each student will receive a drop-off and pick-up time. (i.e. if class starts at 5pm, assigned drop off time could be 4:45pm).

- Student must arrive at his/her assigned time. If they are early, they must wait. If late, they must wait outside until admitted into the building.
- Students enter at his/her assigned time and meet PAS staff member in the lobby.
- Students must be wearing masks properly before entering the building.
- No student will be admitted without a mask.
- Staff member takes temperature of student with no-touch infrared thermometer. If temperature reads normal, student will be permitted to enter class. Staff member records temperature in daily log.
- If student has higher than normal temperature or displays cold or flu-like symptoms, student will be required to wait in lounge and parent will be called to come pick up student as soon as possible.
- Student uses hand sanitizer at station upon check-in. Student is admitted to class and is escorted by hall monitor.

**Pick-Up Procedure:**

- Parent or family member must arrive outside at assigned pick-up time.
- Parent or family member must check in with front door staff member and announce who they are picking up.
- Staff member calls on walkie talkie to teacher in classroom who dismisses students one at a time. Student must maintain social distancing, walk down hallway and out of building and meet parent/family member outside front door.

**Classroom Protocols:**

- Masks must be worn by students and teachers inside the classrooms at all times.
- Students must maintain distance from the teacher, and remain on the opposite side of the plexiglass from the teacher.
- Signs are posted and classrooms are taped and marked as a guide to keep students 6 feet or further apart.
- No more than 10 students are permitted in any classroom.
- Students are encouraged to bring as little belongings as possible, and only what is necessary for class. Jackets, coats, and bags will be placed in assigned bins, which will be cleaned daily.
- No food will be permitted anywhere inside the building.
- There will be no shared costumes, props, mats, or materials.
- All items will be pre-assigned and managed by the teacher.

**Bathroom Protocols:**

- If student needs to use the bathroom, they must notify the teacher. Teacher then calls front desk staff member on walkie talkie and a staff member picks up student and escorts them.
- Student must wash hands when finished.
- Student will be escorted back to class.

**Symptoms Requiring Student to Stay Home:**

- Active vomiting or diarrhea

- Fever/chills/generalized body aches
- Fever constitutes 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit or higher. However, evaluate the clinical picture. A temperature of 100.0 with body aches likely indicates acute illness.
- Cough and runny nose
- Irritability or sluggishness
- Abdominal pain without another explanation
- Rash
- Conjunctivitis, or red or pink eyes
- Enlarged lymph node (“gland”) on one side of the neck
- Red, cracked lips or red tongue that looks like a strawberry
- Swollen hands and feet, which might also be red
- The first 24 hours of various antibiotic treatments (i.e. strep throat, pink eye, etc.)
- Undiagnosed, new, and/or untreated rash or skin condition (i.e. generalized hives, wound with purulent drainage, etc.)
- Doctor’s note requiring an individualized plan of care to stay home.
- COVID positive test result

**Allergy-Like Symptoms:**

- If a student is experiencing allergy-like symptoms, such as runny nose, sneezing, watery eyes, this is still a concern because COVID-19 is spread in the droplets from mucous.
- A student may have allergies but still be an asymptomatic carrier of the virus and spread the disease, causing others to become ill.
- If allergies are not controlled, please see your doctor to help get these symptoms under control as you should not be at the school.

**Asymptomatic Carriers:**

- A person at any age who carries the virus but does not show symptoms.
- It was determined that a younger population may have mild to no symptoms but still infect others.
- However, as more people become infected, we learn more about the virus and are now seeing a rare but dangerous hyper-inflammatory condition that has been termed multisystem inflammatory syndrome (MIS-C) disease in the young.

We appreciate you reading through this carefully and let us all work together to provide safety so that our students can enjoy their music, dance, and theater classes.

Sincerely,



Becky Serico  
 Managing Director  
 The Performing Arts School at bergenPAC

**Liability Waiver – 2021-2022 School Year**  
**(this must be signed and acknowledged in order for students to enter the building)**

- I acknowledge the contagious nature of the Coronavirus/COVID-19 and that the CDC and many other public health authorities still recommend practicing social distancing.
- I further acknowledge that The Performing Arts School at bergenPAC (The PAS) has put in place preventative measures to reduce the spread of the Coronavirus/COVID-19.
- I further acknowledge that The PAS cannot guarantee that I/my child will not become infected with the Coronavirus/COVID-19. I understand that the risk of becoming exposed to and/or infected by the Coronavirus/COVID-19 may result from the actions, omissions, or negligence of myself and others, including, but not limited to, staff, and other students and their families.

I attest that I/my child(ren):

- I am not experiencing any symptoms of illness such as cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell.
- I have not traveled internationally within the last 14 days.
- I have not traveled to a highly impacted area within the United States of America in the last 14 days.
- I do not believe I have been exposed to someone with a suspected and/or confirmed case of the Coronavirus/COVID-19.
- I have not been diagnosed with Coronavirus/COVID-19 and not yet cleared as no- contagious by state or local public health authorities.
- I am following all CDC recommended guidelines as much as possible and limiting my exposure to the Coronavirus/COVID-19.

I hereby release and agree to hold The Performing Arts School at bergenPAC harmless from, and waive on behalf of myself, my heirs, and any personal representatives any and all causes of action, claims, demands, damages, costs, expenses and compensation for damage or loss to myself and/or property that may be caused by any act, or failure to act of the school, or that may otherwise arise in any way in connection with any services received from The PAS. I understand that this release discharges The PAS from any liability or claim that I, my heirs, or any personal representatives may have against the school with respect to any bodily injury, illness, death, medical treatment, or property damage that may arise from, or in connection to, any services received from The PAS. This liability waiver and release extends to the school together with all owners, partners, and employees.

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_