

In these worrying times we know things can feel overwhelming. We don't want to add to the fear or sensationalism. We want you to know that we feel it is part of our duty of care as public space users to take care of our community and to try and create some stability and sense of normality.

Therefore it is our intention to keep classes running at Kew School of Dance and continue with business as normal as much as possible until the Government tells us otherwise. We are reviewing this rapidly - evolving situation daily and will keep you informed if we need to temporarily close the school.

Safe Dance practices have always been an important part of how we operate and this has not changed. We have increased our cleaning in line with recommended guidelines, modified our teaching practices to reduce physical contact, and are using reduced numbers of teaching props. Those that are being used are being cleaned before and after use.

We feel that it is important to try and keep things as normal as possible for children and young people in these uncertain times. We know that dance class is an important place for them to express themselves and escape from the "real world" briefly. Participation in dance promotes health and well being which is more important than ever.

The Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) met recently to consider the issue of school closures in relation to the community transmission of COVID-19.

“ The Committee’s current advice is that pre-emptive childcare, kindergarten and school closures are not likely to be proportionate or effective as a public health intervention to prevent community transmission of COVID-19 at this time.

It’s important for children to try to keep things as normal as possible”

Keep in mind that our class sizes are relatively small and those who are sick are staying away. We want to acknowledge this and we thank everyone for their consideration of others in this matter.

If you are unable to make it to the studio please let us know and we will do our best to connect students to their class via Zoom.

We will get through this and hopefully we will come out the other side stronger, wiser and more resilient. Now is the time to draw on the skills that dance teaches us: to work together and support each other, to think critically and creatively to overcome the challenges facing us and to stay connected with and care for our minds and bodies.

With our "business as normal" approach in mind it is time for Term 2 invoices to be issued. This will happen over the next week. We will extend our payment terms to 28 days, encourage payment via

instalments if you are unable to make payment in full and no late fees will be charged this term. We can offer limited partial and full scholarships for any students whose families find themselves in changed financial circumstances as a result of the current situation.

We ask for your ongoing help and support so that we can continue to deliver classes and pay our teachers, who are currently preparing content for online learning. Our fee structure has always worked on a fixed amount per term, with the number of teaching weeks averaged out across the year. We expect that term dates will be adjusted and any weeks missed will be made up later in the year. We will review and make any adjustments as required prior to Term 3 invoicing.

Now is the time to live our school values of integrity, innovation, kindness and respect. We thank you for your ongoing support and look forward to sharing the joy of dance with you at this difficult time.

Some tips for staying calm and safe:

- Stay informed. Use information from reputable sources, such as <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus>
- Stay connected with family, friends and neighbours
 - Get plenty of rest
 - Stay hydrated
 - Eat well - lots of fresh fruit & vegetables
 - Avoid sugar as it comprises the immune system
 - De-stress, as stress weakens the immune system. Unplug, take a walk in nature, enjoy the fresh air and sunshine, meditate, dance.
 - Include Vitamin C & Zinc (a good vitamin C tablet will have zinc included)
 - Vitamin D also improves the immune system
 - Follow health guidelines of washing hands and avoid touching your face.
 - Be kind and understanding

Remember:

“For the virus to spread, extended close personal contact is most likely required. Close personal contact is at least 15 minutes face-to-face or more than two hours in the same room.

At the moment, we urge the public to be mindful and take steps to minimise the risk of COVID-19. Everyone has a role to play in protecting yourself and your family. Hands should be washed regularly with soap and water. Cough or sneeze into a tissue or your elbow. If you are ill, stay at home.”

The Department of Health and Human Services follows up and monitors all close contacts of confirmed cases and provides them with information and support. All close contacts must self-isolate for 14-days. All people arriving from any international destination must also self-isolate for 14 days as per Commonwealth Government direction.

Extensive testing has shown that people who have passed through places where there was a confirmed case, known as casual contacts, have an extremely low risk of transmission and are not currently recommended for testing. This will help to ensure our hospitals, assessment centres and general practitioners can prioritise testing for those most at risk.