

Lafayette Society for Performing Arts

Our Plans to Reopen Fall 2020

LSPA's professional training programs in music, dance and theatre return this fall. New and innovative teaching solutions will help protect the health and safety of our students, while providing an artistic outlet, creating a community of encouragement and support.

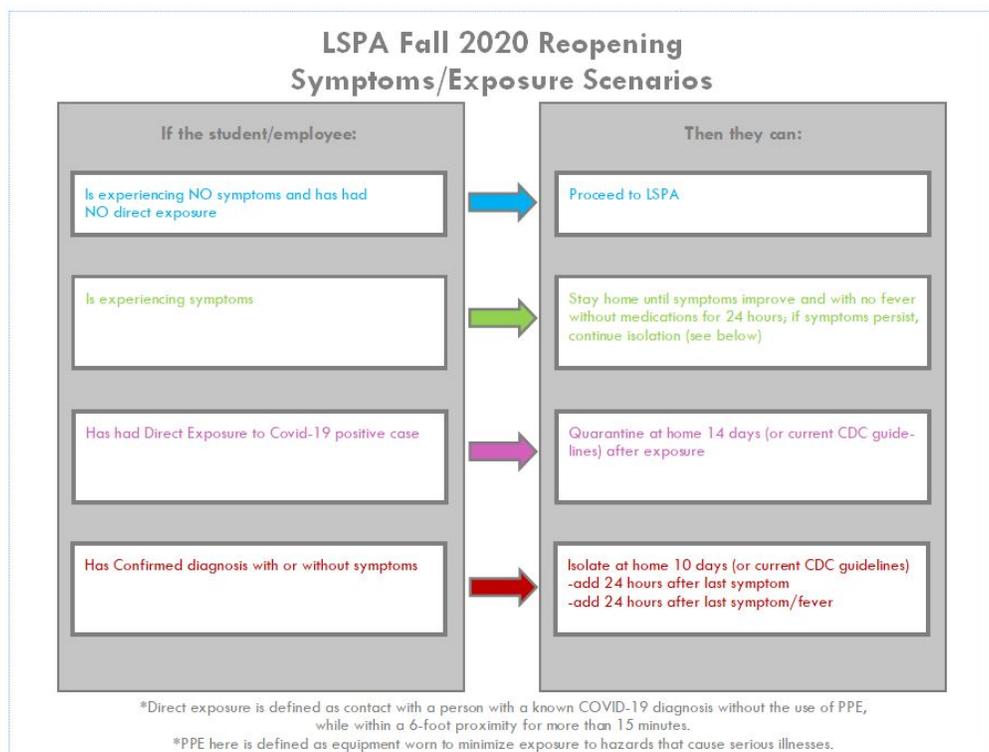
By reopening our programs, we are aiming to fulfill our mission to promote, cultivate, nurture, and enhance the performing arts experiences for our community. Our plan explains the policies and procedures we are employing to mitigate COVID related risks at LSPA. Given the unprecedented times, all plans are subject to change. We are using resources proved by the CDC, local DPH, and the State of Georgia.

LSPA Reopening Overview

We are implementing new procedures for functions within the LSPA building and appreciate your cooperation and understanding as we take measures to protect the safety of our staff, students, and patrons. These include:

- New screening processes for student arrivals, focused on checking for symptoms of Covid-19 and including specific guidelines for admittance times and locations
- Limiting admittance to the building to students and faculty and requesting that parents and siblings not enter the facility unless conducting specific business.
- Smaller and limited class sizes, many with virtual options for students wishing to remain off-site or who are in quarantine.
- Contact-free or personal curriculum.
- Faculty and student use of masks and shields to minimize exposure for everyone.
- Enhanced cleaning and disinfecting measures in all areas of the building, with limited access to areas with higher risk of contact.

While it is extremely important for us to focus on the best practices for physical health, we are very aware of potential harm we might do to our students by enforcing practices in an overly rigid or fearful manner. We will honor the most current regulations while using common sense, patience, and kindness. Now, more than ever, we are committed to providing our students a happy, calm, and stress-free environment as we nurture their physical, mental, and emotional health.



LSPA Specifics for Reopening

Arrival and Screening

Students may arrive no earlier than 10 minutes before class. No one may enter the building if they have been diagnosed, have symptoms, or have had contact with a person who has or is suspected to have Covid-19. There will be a touchless temperature check upon entrance.

Symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- Fever greater than 100.4 or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Covid-19 signage will be posted on the door to remind non-entry to anyone with symptoms.

Parents, thank you for allowing your students to attend class only if they are well. Please let your student know that we will be conducting screening upon arrival.

Students Only in the Building

At-the-door drop off and pick up will be used so that we may decrease the number of people entering the building to limit exposure for everyone. Students will have assigned areas for individual belongings and will not be able to congregate at break/between class times. We also respectfully ask that parents and family members not enter the building unless they need to pay tuition, buy tights, etc. It is the responsibility of the parent to ensure the safe arrival and departure from our building. Please note that all tuition payments and account questions may be answered over the phone at (706) 882-9909.

- **Specific to LCD:** (706) 882-9439 (Dance payments). We ask that you wait until students are in their classes before coming into the office. For our youngest students, we want them to feel comfortable as they begin their year so “at-the-door-drop-off” will be available with a staff member escorting them to their classroom. We respectfully ask any parents who need to enter to wear a mask.

Arrival and Departure

Alternate entrance and exits may be utilized to streamline entry, screening, dismissals and to keep students in smaller, consistent class groups. Class dismissals have been staggered within our master schedule to minimize contact between different classes. We will communicate with each class about assigned arrival and departure doors where parents may meet their students. It is essential that all students be picked up promptly as their classes end. This will ensure that staff is available to help with other students as they arrive and are moved between classes.

Smaller class size

Several classes have been split to allow for safe distancing. Class sizes are determined by size of room, size/age of students, and curriculum. If maximum safe enrollment is reached, a waiting list will be implemented. Students will have designated spaces for each class, so that in the event of a positive COVID test, contact tracers will know which students were in proximity to each other.

- **Specific to LCD** - We will encourage distancing with barre and center placements. As already common in dance classes for younger levels, we will use tape marks to help dancers stay appropriately distanced. Dancers, especially intermediate and advanced students, are already well trained at spacing themselves in a dance class and we know they will use these skills in a serious manner as we instruct.

Contact-free curriculum

Our class plans and activities will utilize social distancing measures. There will be no shared props and **we will provide each younger student a sealed personal bag of prop items** to be used at class time.

- **Specific to LCD** - Hands on alignment and body placement assistance will not be utilized at this time. Verbal cues and demonstration will be the key methods for corrections. Should a situation arise where staff should need to assist a student in proximity, masks and gloves are available. (nosebleed, injury, etc.) Barres will be used in a method that allows dancers to only use a specified unshared section of barre on a given day. There will be no holding hands or choreography that requires touching another dancer.

Face Coverings/Masks

Staff members will be wearing face coverings/masks/shields. We respectfully require that students wear face coverings during this time. With all, and especially with our young students, we will exercise common sense, flexibility, and kindness as we know this will be a challenge. We ask that each person furnish their own mask for comfort and fit but we will have disposable ones available. We respectfully ask that parents/guardians, when dropping off and picking up students at assigned doors, wear a mask when they are near others. Students and staff should pay attention to hydration, overheating, and any signs of dizziness while in masks. Along with awareness of most current CDC and executive orders, we will continue to dialog with a consortium of arts education institutions, our local health department liaison, and medical providers on masks and recommended practices. Masks are not optimum for arts training, however we are using this resource in order to ensure the safety of our students and to allow our organization to remain OPEN. Thank you for your cooperation in this protocol.

- **LCD** - Proprioception while in masks, especially in large jumps that change direction, enchainment turns and pirouettes, will be carefully addressed. We will have mask breaks during classes as recommended for health and safety.
- **YSWG** - One mask with a clear mouth panel will be provided to each student to enhance the teaching of proper vocal technique. Students may provide their own mask/shield if they prefer.

Cleaning and disinfecting measures

LSPA will adhere to the most current CDC and State of Georgia guidelines and regulations to keep students and staff safe. *Cleaning* refers to the removal of germs, dirt, and impurities from surfaces; it does not kill germs, but by removing them, it lowers their numbers and the risk of spreading infection. *Disinfecting* refers to using chemicals to kill germs on surfaces. LSPA will use a combination of these two, disinfecting a surface after cleaning, to further lower the risk of spreading infection.

We have developed, with our Facilities Manager, Morgan Ayres, cleaning protocols and scheduling. In addition to the routine custodial cleaning, LSPA has implemented an enhanced frequency to clean and disinfect common areas and commonly touched surfaces in classrooms. Touchpoints such as entrance handles, handrails, barres, restroom stall handles/doors, and faucet handles will be cleaned and disinfected throughout the day using EPA-registered disinfectants. All areas used will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected after students leave each day.

For any area exposed to COVID-19, facilities will:

- Lock the affected classroom and place appropriate signage on the door to prevent unauthorized access.
- Make appropriate changes to the HVAC system/schedule to maximize fresh air delivery to the affected classroom after waiting the recommended time period. Change the air filter in the HVAC system that services the space.
- Clean and disinfect the room and furniture with EPA approved disinfectant.
- If someone within LSPA contracts COVID-19, contact tracing will be used to determine the exposed classrooms, shared areas, and equipment within the buildings. These areas and equipment will be disinfected per CDC guideline and LSPA procedures.

Water fountains

Water fountains are equipped with bottle fillers and will only be available for this use. We ask students to bring a personal water bottle.

Hand sanitation

Alcohol-based hand sanitizer dispenser stations are installed at every classroom door. Additional stations are at each building entrance upon arrival and departure, but students may provide their own if they wish. Although hand sanitizer can help prevent the spread of the virus, practicing the CDC's proper hand-washing technique is the most effective. Handwashing will be required after any restroom visit and before and after eating.

Students who become ill while at LSPA

If a student is feeling ill at LSPA, the instructor will notify the parent. The student will be supervised separate from other students until a parent arrives. Both the student and the person escorting the student will wear face coverings and maintain physical distancing. If a parent/guardian cannot be reached, the emergency contact will be notified. LSPA asks parents to notify our directors to determine when the child is able to return to the classroom setting.

Staff, contractors, etc. who become ill while at LSPA

Staff, contractors, and others who become ill while at LSPA will notify their supervisor and will return only after receiving medical clearance.

Exposure to COVID-19

In the event of a possible exposure, LSPA personnel will consult with our DPH contact who will provide specific protocol to follow regarding notification of affected individuals. Students, faculty, and staff should not come to LSPA if they feel sick, test positive for COVID-19, or have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. Families should contact LSPA immediately if their child is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, has tested positive for COVID-19, and/or has been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for the virus.

Preparing for Class Interruptions

In the event that the Troup County School System changes their in-person learning schedule, we, as a private institution, will evaluate our position independently. Our goal is to remain open and operational to the fullest extent possible.