

FAME Performing Arts and COVID-19 guidelines and protocol

The FAME team has been closely following SC guidelines for the performing arts, and we have been collaborating with local and national performing arts organizations to ensure that we have ample safety precautions in place for the return to our studio space. Please understand these lists are fluid and may change at any time, as we are adjusting as new information emerges! We appreciate your continued patience, consideration, and support during this time.

What we are doing during activities:

- Activities are held outside the studio - we have redesigned our entire parking lot space with tents, allowing for shade, full ventilation and ample spacing.
- Blocking/dancing will be adjusted to allow for social distancing guidelines. We are providing visual cues to help young students with spacing (i.e., tape lines, hula hoops, etc). All students are encouraged to not face directly towards others.
- Group singing will always be in one direction, in one straight line.
- Audience size at performances will be limited to fit social distancing guidelines.
- Streaming online of performances will be used whenever available for our audience members who wish to view from home.
- Actors will not share microphones, for safety. Costumes/props/set pieces will be limited to necessities, and individual prop pieces will be divided amongst the actors and not shared.
- We will have plenty of touchless hand sanitizer at FAME and on site; all actors will be encouraged to wash hands regularly as needed.
- Dance classes will be indoors with no more than 12 students.

Activity Tents:

We have a 40x20 tent in our parking area to allow ample space for activities, plus additional tents for break-out groups as needed. The main tent will have several fans positioned for full ventilation and circulation. Ample water and rest breaks will be offered for all, and an additional small amenity tent is stationed for water breaks, hand sanitization, and shade needs if applicable.

Masks for rehearsal and performance:

Our staff will be wearing masks at all times. Masks will be worn during rehearsals to protect others who are vulnerable to exposure. For professionally costumed performances, our costume designer will make a mask that fits your character if requested. This will be adjusted as guidelines are adjusted. FAME chooses to follow science based evidence.

Hand washing:

Hands will be washed before masks are put on or taken off during activities. This will happen for every break as a group (around every 30 min). We will also have touchless hand sanitizer stations to be used as needed.

Bathroom breaks and sanitization protocol:

Students will be permitted to use the restroom indoors on an individual basis. Hands will be sanitized before entering the building, hands will be washed, mask removed, hands washed, mask on, exit building, hand sanitizer. We will have at least one staff member guiding students with these steps so healthful habits are established.

Student belongings:

Students will only be able to bring their script, dance shoes/clothing, pencil, and water. Students will be permitted to bring school bags if coming straight from school. Each student will have a chair as a station for their belongings, which will be disinfected as needed. If we see there is a need for students to bring more, than this will be discussed individually. Students are permitted to bring necessary medical supplies (EPI), but those items must stay at their chair. (FAME currently has a full First Aid Kit onsite).

Social Distancing support:

Our teachers and staff have had over 6 weeks of summer programming at FAME where we successfully practiced social distancing. Teachers will continue to enforce social distancing. This is a huge challenge for the younger students, but we wish to establish great healthy habits in the comfort of our theater community. We will make it as "normal" as possible, and understand this may be a bit strange for students to experience. We will do our best to make it feel comfortable while being safe. We will often have physical markers for students to have a visual of their distance limits (hula hoops, etc.), and will use positive affirmations of distance guidelines ("We are respecting our neighbor's distance to support great health!")

Audience protocol:

Our audience capacity will be limited, due to space and distancing guidelines. You will be asked to bring your own chairs, bug spray, flash lights, and anything else you want that will make the performance enjoyable (please no food; drinks are welcome but you must take trash with you!)

What happens if someone is sick?

If you or an immediate family member feels ill, please stay home! If someone develops symptoms, production will cease immediately until full testing may be done.

Personal challenges:

As moms ourselves, we know how difficult it is to manage masks and other socially responsible protocols. We anticipate these challenges and have staff on-hand to focus on only this. We need your support to ensure students will follow these guidelines - please discuss our guidelines and the supporting reasons with your child prior to their activity time with us. We will also include an introduction of our expectations and guidelines at the beginning of our activities.

Our thanks to you, our theater family:

We understand the difficulty of this time, and appreciate your continued patience and support as our staff works extensively with other industry professionals to design a path forward so that our students can continue their theater, voice, and music studies. We understand if you're uncomfortable moving forward within our guidelines -- if that is the case, please let us know as soon as possible so we may adjust accordingly.

We look forward to the opportunity to continue exploring the performing arts with you and your child!