

NEVERLAND STUDIOS – COVID-19 Procedures as of 19/3/20

At Neverland, protecting the wellbeing of our staff and students is our top priority.

As this situation has been evolving, we have been doing everything we feel is right and responsible to manage our school. Yesterday, with the further spread of COVID-19 and the situation in NZ escalating, and after consulting local health care providers, we have made the difficult but necessary decision to **temporarily suspend** all classes effective from Monday 23rd March.

We have determined that it is in the best interest of our staff and families to do this, and while we will miss our students over the next few weeks, we take our role of leading this community responsibly, very seriously.

Classes will continue to run as normal until then (19-22nd March) with our current measures in place to manage person-to-person contact and hygiene.

A reminder! This includes,

No one extra in the building at any time - apart from dancers and teachers.

Limit all student-to-student contact. (Teachers will be enforcing this).

Continue to sanitise and wash hands often.

The studio will be closed for the remainder of Term 1, at this stage, and into the school holidays. We did have 3 weeks left of term and then a 3 week break. This now gives us a 6 week period to help slow the spread of COVID-19. This will also allow us a longer window to continue to assess the situation and make decisions about how best to proceed into Term 2.

How does this affect our year?

Our dance terms will be **extended by 1 week for the next 3 terms** to ensure we can deliver you all of your classes for the year. We are in the great position that with many weeks of school holidays still to come this year, we can make these weeks up later with no disruption to your dance year.

At this uncertain time, allow us to give you a framework to go by that you can expect from us over the next little while.

Week 6 (This current week) - Normal classes to continue with increased hygiene and limited contact measures in place.

Week 7 (Next week) - Our staff will go behind the scenes to organise some great online content for you to keep you dancing and engaged over this little break. We will still be posting, sharing and talking online, so it's super important to keep engaging with your dance friends and teachers to keep all of our spirits up. But please, while we organise ourselves and make moves to look after our Neverland family and plan our next steps, bear with us. Unless a question is important, please hold off until you hear our next announcement.

Week 8 and 9 - We will be releasing more info for you on how your dance education will be delivered.

We know that over this time with many sports and social activities cancelled, it's super important to keep our youth active and healthy, physically and mentally. We will be doing everything we can to keep our community vibing and positive.

In the meantime, show dates remain unchanged. We will monitor exams and competitions and will deliver more information on that as soon as possible. We will continue to monitor the situation, and should emergency directions be issued, we will update you accordingly. If we feel that over the next 3 days we need to suspend classes any earlier, we are not afraid to make that call.

We know dance is a huge part of our students' lives and we want to do everything we can to continue to provide as many of the benefits that dance brings, even if we cannot be face to face with you.

It is more important, now that ever, to engage with us online. Comment, share and like all our posts on social media. We want to hear from you! And please, join our online Facebook group which we have set up, just for our Neverland families. Click [here](#) to join.

Thank you so much for your understanding over this time and please continue to do your part in the community to help our government slow the spread of COVID-19. Wash your hands, practice social distancing and don't touch your face.

But mostly, stay calm, look after yourself and be kind to one another.

And remember, we are very lucky to live on an island in the Pacific. We have a great health system and with great communication channels and a small population, if we do our part, we have a great chance of managing this, but it relies on you! We can all make a difference.

In these challenging and confusing times, we need to rise to the occasion, not shrink away from it. Expand your hearts, don't contract.

And while we close our doors for now, Neverland will always be a place to connect.

Yours Sincerely,

Ash, Alley and all of your Amazing teachers.