

Covid Protocols Document - last updated 24 February 2022

National Youth Ballet is committed to creating an environment where our staff and young people always feel safe. With regard to COVID-19, National Youth Ballet will at all times be aware of the latest [UK Government Guidance on COVID-19](#) and will continue to undertake appropriate levels of risk assessment and have a risk management plan in place to ensure we deliver our activity safely in line with guidance.

We take a 'best practice' approach to all our activities and we consult with our stakeholders to ensure that we model a behaviour which will keep our team, our participants and others safe. There are still cases of COVID-19 in England and we are aware that there is always a risk of catching or passing on the virus, whether we are fully vaccinated or not. In preparing this document we are taking into consideration the risks of catching or spreading COVID-19 in an NYB setting.

While no situation is risk free, there are easy and effective actions NYB will still undertake to protect our team and our young people.

Face coverings

Whilst there is no longer a legal requirement to wear a face covering, the Government suggests that you continue to wear one in crowded and enclosed spaces, especially where you come into contact with people you do not usually meet. NYB is committed to creating a space which will protect our overall ability to deliver in-person activity, including our rehearsals and live performances. Where possible, we suggest that mask-wearing in communal areas is encouraged but it is no longer required during activity. Should NYB participants still prefer to wear a mask during activity this is of course your choice. We are happy to accept removal of face masks during the auditions, rehearsals and performances.

Try to stay at home if you're feeling unwell!

The main symptoms of COVID-19 as listed on the government website are recent onset of any of the following:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell

Lateral Flow Tests

Rapid lateral flow testing continues to be available free of charge until 1 April 2022. [You can get tests from pharmacies or online.](#)

We know that we are at higher risk of catching or passing on COVID-19 in enclosed spaces. To protect the company and safeguard our overall ability to deliver activity including rehearsals and live performances, and to minimise the risk of participants or staff becoming

infected, NYB still recommends that our staff and our young people take a rapid lateral flow test on the day of activity. By encouraging this behaviour, NYB will help to manage the overall risk of spreading COVID-19 and protect our company.

Ventilation

NYB will ensure that there is adequate ventilation in our studios and will let fresh air in to reduce the risk of catching or spreading COVID-19.

Cleaning and hand sanitiser

Hand sanitiser will be available in each studio and will be used regularly. Barres and surfaces will be disinfected at the end of each day. Young people will be advised to wash their hands after every session.

Vaccines

NYB encourages those who are eligible to take the vaccine but as a community we understand that there may be reasons why this is not possible and therefore nobody will be excluded if they have decided not to take the vaccine.

Travel

NYB advises all staff and young people to continue to sanitise their hands regularly and wear a mask on public transport to protect themselves and others. Please refer to the Government guidelines for safer travel.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/991060/coronavirus-safer-travel-easy-read-guidance.pdf

Venue Regulations

In addition to our own policies we will be following the COVID-19 policies of all the studios and performance venues we use.

COVID-19 Risk Assessment

We will carry out a COVID-19 Risk Assessment in line with PHE guidelines.

NYB respects that everyone has the freedom to make personal choices which can help reduce the risk of catching or spreading COVID-19. NYB continues to be mindful of taking a cautious approach thus allowing us to create a comfortable space to reduce risks where possible.

COVID Process

NYB hopes that we can minimise the risks of any further spread of COVID-19. If a member of our NYB community, whether staff or young person tests positive for COVID-19 within 48 hours of being in close contact with NYB activity, we would be grateful if you could kindly let us know using our admin@nationalyouthballet.org email. NYB's position will be to

recommend that you stay at home and avoid contact with other people.

However, in line with the Government's **Plan to Living with COVID-19**, from Thursday 24 February 2022 :

- You will no longer be legally required to self isolate if you test positive for COVID-19. New guidance will advise people to stay at home and avoid contact with other people.
- You will no longer be legally required to self isolate if you are an unvaccinated close contact and will no longer be advised to test for 7 days if you are a fully vaccinated close contact. New guidelines will set out the precautions for reducing risk to yourself and others.