

Recommendations for Safe Return to Dancing – Revised 8.20.20

Square & Folk Dance Federation of Washington – for immediate distribution to all WA club & council presidents.

Following the WA phased approach, a square dance club **should be in an area that has moved to Phase 4**, resuming interactions w/social distancing & hygiene. Also consider that some halls or facilities may have restrictions that will not allow dancing to resume.

As representatives of Federation members we strongly recommend the following:

- **Immediate cancellation of all dance activities through December 31, 2020 and to notify all contracted callers, cuers & venues of this action.**
- Each group should keep in communication with membership with up to date recommendations & ask for their input to determine what is best for their organization

The Federation has inquired with State Health officials as to recommended guidelines to follow for re-entry to square dancing. It is recommended that:

- We should wait until we have entered Phase 4 (in our immediate area). Note: When it is safe to begin in your area, be cautious about travel to other areas.
- Limit size of gathering using safe capacity measures
- Control area of usage for health & safety(using CDC recommendations-see steps below)
- Provide masks & gloves
- Health Monitor – Participants should self-monitor prior to entry

The club/organization holding the event can and should set and enforce the requirements for that event and area. It is suggested to post those requirements.

When a club can resume dancing the following steps are recommended:

1-Risk Management Health monitor - it should be up to each dancer to be considerate & respectful of others.

Stay home if you have or recently had a temperature, had frequent headaches, a dry cough, breathing issues, and/or just not felt well or if you live or work with anyone who is or has been sick.

Get their contact information (email and/or phone number) in case contact tracing is necessary. A disclaimer from each dancer-event is also recommended (check with your insurance carrier)

2-Physical Distancing Line dancing and round dancing can allow for physical distancing from other dancers, except for our partner in a round dance.

There is just no way that we can stay six feet apart in square dancing. That is why risk assessment is so important.

3-Wearing a Mask One of the most effective ways to significantly reduce the spread of any virus passed on by aerosol droplets.

4-Washing your Hands Extremely important.

Using an approved hand sanitizer after each tip – having available several stations around the hall where a good hand sanitizer is available and have masks to dispense.

5-Food Shared food is not recommended, unless it is in commercially-sealed in individual containers.

Dancers should bring their own food and beverages in their own containers.

6-Sanitizing Surfaces Wipe down frequently touched surfaces such as tables, chairs, doorknobs, light switches, restroom toilets, faucets, sinks and other surfaces before, during, and after a dance with a suitable disinfectant is advisable and should be an important consideration to those running the event. (This is advised every hour.)

The Federation will take another look at where we are near year end for the next steps.

We encourage you to keep in touch with each other.