

Brave Arts Summer 2021

COVID-19 Safety & Wellness and Risk-Reduction Plan

Latest update: January 18, 2021

Brave Arts will approach reducing risk to exposure and/or spread of COVID-19 with a **five-point plan** (*masks, distance, hand hygiene, ventilation and testing/reporting/tracing*) that will be implemented prior to and throughout the day sessions. As advised by the CDC and Massachusetts state guidelines, it will require layering safety measures and strictly adhering to our policies. *Any changes to this document will be clearly outlined and communicated to registered families.*

*Please note as of January, 2021 we are unsure if we will be able to hold the boarding sessions. This safety plan will be updated if we are able to hold the boarding session for both the protection of our boarding participants and day participants.

1. FACE COVERINGS

All staff and participants will be required to wear a 2-ply or (ideally) 3-ply face mask from drop-off until pick-up. If the mask is not sufficient, Brave Arts staff will provide an alternative mask option. While this will mean that our kids are in masks for ~5 to 6 hours a day, we will have scheduled mask breaks and kids may always let us know they need a mask and/or water/snack break.

Masks will **always** be required when indoors (including in bathroom facilities) and when physical distancing outside is not possible. Since we are a singing program, we plan to continue to require masks when singing/dancing/playing outside and spaced apart, but will provide ample mask, water and physical breaks to ensure rest and safety in the heat. We will ONLY sing when we are able to be masked and at least six feet physically spaced with ample ventilation. Counselors will use portable microphone packs to help amplify our voices without needing to shout, whether outside or inside.

2. PHYSICAL DISTANCING

The CDC continues to recommend that we maintain **at least six feet of physical distancing when indoors and at least three to six feet when outside**. Our staff will pre-mark six foot apart spots/boxes for our Brave Arts participants to stand, sit, dance and move in. Using a similar set-up to schools and other dance and arts programs, we will provide visual aids to our kids to help them maintain distance.

3. VENTILATION AND USE OF OUTDOOR SPACE

The Cambridge School of Weston has been able to safely hold classes in a hybrid model (on campus and remote as needed) on their campus as of January 2021 with

safety upgrades to each of their buildings and campus. They have partnered with The Stone Group to increase ventilation.

In addition to this Brave Arts will be working with CSW to identify the on-campus spaces that have the best ventilation and access to windows/doors and designate outdoor spaces for Brave Arts' use that will include open, but covered areas for sun and heat protection.

Brave Arts will be taking advantage of CSW's abundant outdoor spaces with the understanding from the CDC and other advisory groups that spread is significantly reduced outside due to natural air flow. Any time we are indoors, HEPA fans/filters will be used and/or windows/doors open. Masks will also always be required when inside and will only be permitted to come off when a participant is outside and 6-feet physically distanced from others.

4. HAND HYGIENE

CSW has already provided multiple sanitation stations in each building and room and Brave Arts will provide additional bottles of hand sanitizer. Every member of the Brave Arts community will be required to wash their hands for 20 seconds with soap and water prior to and after lunch and snacks and regularly throughout the day.

5. TESTING, EXPOSURE/SYMPTOM REPORTING, CONTACT TRACING

We will use an app (ie: [MedBot](#)) that every participant will need to fill out honestly and accurately each morning. The survey will include any symptoms, possible exposure and travel questions. **It will be at staff discretion after reviewing each of these surveys whether the child will be able to attend Brave Arts that morning and beyond.**

Brave Arts will communicate with all families about potential or confirmed cases within our community. Any child or staff who is deemed a close contact of a confirmed case will be required to quarantine and test. It is our hope that with the vaccine that quarantine necessity will be significantly reduced by mid-July, however we will maintain a fair refund policy for any families affected by exposure or quarantine and will update with regards to "remote" participation.

Staff will be required to have a COVID test on a consistent schedule (exact timing TBD). Staff will be under an employment agreement that our three weeks will require extended safe behavior and limited exposure to anyone outside of our program. We will be "overstaffed" with multiple risk-mitigation efforts to ensure a fully staffed program at all times. All adults will be required to be masked in each other's presence and will eat lunch separately from the participants and other adults. Staff will maintain multiple contact logs (ie: who was in their group, time together, mask-use, etc) to advise contact-tracing efforts and identify "close contacts." This is

subject to change based on vaccination of staff and health guidelines surrounding vaccinated individuals.

We may require participants to produce a negative PCR result 1-3 days prior to the start of Brave Arts, but this requirement will be updated closer to July, 2021. If rapid testing becomes more widely available, we will also consider that option on a daily or weekly basis.

There is also a chance we will separate the age groups depending on current positive case rates and vaccination progress as we have a large age gap in our participants. A decision is TBD closer to the start of Brave Arts.

LUNCH, SNACKS AND WATER BREAKS

As of Jan 2021 Brave Arts has decided to not provide lunch. If this changes, we will update our families and give each family the option to participate in a provided lunch.

Every child will have an assigned counselor(s) and lunch group that will not change throughout the week. Lunch, snacks and water breaks will work similarly to mask breaks. We will eat lunch outside, under the tents or covered spots weather-permitting. If we are experiencing extreme weather, we will have individual spaces for the groups of 5 kids to eat spaced out with ventilation. Adults will not have their masks off while supervising lunch.

COMMUNITY AGREEMENT

Every person registering is required to agree to our community agreement with the understanding that policies and information will be updated as we receive new information.

We will be sending out required health forms and further liability waivers prior to July 2021. This summer will be about caring for our community as if they were our own family and respecting that in order to give as many kids as possible a safe and healthy place to spend their summer, adults and families will need to agree to our commitment prior to and during Brave Arts sessions.

CARING FOR OUR BRAVE ARTS FAMILY: MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS

One of the many reasons we chose to cancel in-person summer 2020 was trying to imagine a Brave Arts summer where we couldn't high five, sit next to each other or hug. We worried that our kids would suffer from having to be reminded to "space out" and be in masks all day while singing and dancing. As 2021 has progressed and we have seen our kids face each of these challenges with resilience, we have grown more confident that they want to bring as much normalcy back to their lives as possible while knowing that we all need to commit to taking care of each other with safety measures inside and outside of Brave Arts. Each of our staff has now experienced a workplace with safety measures in place, including at K-12 schools, college campuses and private tutoring and childcare.

The safety measures currently required are extensive and can be exhausting physically, emotionally and mentally. Above all, this summer and every summer, our priority is each of our kids' well-being and assurance that they are cared for and safe. No final performance, product or lesson will ever come before making sure the hearts and minds of everyone in our Brave Arts family are taken care of. We are opening Brave Arts this summer to give our kids their "second home" back and to give them time together as kids, pre-teens and teens, with adult staff who know how meaningful it is to have places like Brave Arts in a child's journey.

As we approach a year of this pandemic, we have learned and practiced safety measures most of us could never have imagined having to take and have adjusted even with the challenges. Working with kids, we know that break, rest and check-ins are crucial and each will be built into our Brave Arts day. Every child will also be reassured they can communicate their needs to us and we will work hard to ensure that even when safety measures are enforced, it comes from a place of care and compassion, and never punishment.

We encourage all families to be in communication with us to help ensure that we can provide a summer of joy and growth. We know that every family's experience in the pandemic has been different and that kids will have varying perceptions of the ongoing risks. We will insist that every family commits to taking care of this community, including other families and our staff, with compassion, kindness, respect, safety and flexibility.

Finally, and this is the tough reality of 2020-2021, there is a (hopefully slimmer) chance that we will need to cancel in-person programming. With the vaccine progress and increased understanding of safety measures, we are optimistic, but will never jeopardize the safety of our Brave Arts community by pushing forward with in-person if we cannot operate safely. Ultimately, the decision could come from state or town mandates and we will communicate and issue refunds/credits as appropriate.

We can't wait to be back together and celebrate our 13th summer of this *special place we call Brave Arts.*