

## **CASEY O'LOUGHLIN CHAMPIONSHIP COVID-19 PROCEDURES AND PROTOCOLS**

This document is subject to change at anytime with new direction provided by Alberta Health Services ("AHS") and the Government of Alberta.

### **Mask Requirement Effective as of September 4, 2021**

Effective September 4, 2021, the province of Alberta mandated the use of masks in all indoor public spaces. As such, all attendees, including dancers, as well as spectators, adjudicators and volunteers will be required to mask while attending the Casey O'Loughlin Championships ("Feis") presented by CCARS. It is your responsibility to obtain and possess a mask to be worn within all public spaces of the venue.

Details are as follows:

- **DANCERS** – Registered and competing dancers ("Dancers") are required to wear masks upon entering the facility and at the side stage area. Dancers should remove their masks only immediately prior to walking onto the stage and assuming dance position. Masks are not required during athletic activity and performance, and it is your choice to remove your mask to dance or keep your mask on if you so choose. Masks may be placed on the dancer's wrist and held securely in their hand while dancing. Masks need to be worn upon leaving the stage.
- **ADJUDICATORS, VOLUNTEERS, SPECTATORS, VENDORS, ALL ATTENDEES** ("Participants") – All Participants present within the facility (indoor public spaces) are required to wear a mask upon entering the facility and while in attendance.

**Note: These requirements are in effect regardless of vaccination status for all Dancers and Participants.**

- **VACCINATION STATUS** - Dancers and Participants are encouraged to fully vaccinate prior to attending, if they are able, per Province of Alberta public health guidelines.

This information is not a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. The knowledge and circumstances around COVID-19 are changing constantly and CCARS recommends that the Government of Alberta COVID-19 site be accessed for the most up to date information.

### **CASEY O'LOUGHLIN CHAMPIONSHIPS OBJECTIVES**

Within the current Alberta Government Stage 3 of the Open for Summer Plan, there are currently no restrictions on youth sport activity. However, CCARS recognizes that Dancers may be under the age of 12 and are unable to receive a vaccine at this time. Therefore, our Feis will feature guidelines that focus on reducing contact outside of what is necessary to participate.

While current guidance allows CCARS to offer an almost completely normal competition, we understand that we are still in unpredictable times. We are committed to being flexible in our program design while making sure the safety of our Dancers and Participants is of utmost concern. This plan was developed to meet the needs of the Dancers and Participants and focused on achieving the following key objectives:

1. Safety - Create a safe, healthy environment for our Dancers and Participants. Safety is paramount. This plan was built in compliance with the Alberta Government Guidelines, and to minimize the risk of all Dancers and Participants.
2. Fun - Maintain a culture of fun where Dancers and Spectators can enjoy Irish Dancing. CCARS is excited to resume our competitions that allow kids to put their hard work into practice and celebrate our Irish Dancing community.
3. Flexible - Create processes and procedures that allow CCARS to react quickly to the ever-changing environment in the event of unpredictable changes.

## **PROTOCOLS AND SAFETY**

We cannot stress enough that the safety and well-being of our Dancers and Participants is of utmost importance. Please familiarize yourself with COVID-19 Symptoms and the Government of Alberta Isolation Requirements.

Government of Alberta - Symptoms Isolation Requirements

Symptom Screening - Alberta Health Daily Checklist

All participants are required to go through the above daily checklist on their own to ensure they are fit to participate in the Feis. Proof of completion of the checklist is not required. If a participant answers YES to any of the questions, they are not to attend, and must complete all AHS and Government of Alberta Isolation Requirements.

As per AHS, "As of July 29, you are no longer legally required to quarantine if you are a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19." Therefore, CCARS will not have a strict contact tracing protocol. However, out of an abundance of caution, if there is an instance where CCARS are made aware of a potential exposure, Dancers and Participants will be notified.

Please familiarize yourself with the symptoms of COVID-19 and follow AHS and Government guidelines if you are not feeling well. **DO NOT ATTEND THE FEIS IF YOU ARE SICK OR FEEL UNWELL.**

In an effort to reduce the amount of close contact away from the competition, the following best practices are recommended by CCARS:

- Entry & Exit time – dancers are recommended to arrive pre-dressed for competition. It is recommended that dancers not arrive earlier than 60 minutes prior to their suggested competition time. Dancers should vacate the facility within 30 minutes of the completion of their competition and awards presentation.
- Restroom Usage – Anyone in the restrooms must wear a mask. Physical distance is recommended (if possible).
- Eating and Drinking – it is recommended that Dancers and Participants eat and drink prior to entering the competition space, or in a physically distanced area away from other Dancers and Participants.
- Spectators – at this time, there are no government restrictions on spectators and indoor gatherings, but **we strongly recommend one spectator per dancer**. There will be limited seating and we ask you to respect the Dancers' space to allow them to attend and compete safely. Please be sure to follow Hyatt facility protocols.

- Practice Room (Bannerman Walker Room) - the Practice room will be available for warm up and use, however we will be limiting the number of Dancers and Spectators in the space to 10 at a time, and reserve the right to further restrict the number within the room if necessary. Dancers and Spectators should limit the amount of time spent congregating before and after the activity itself.

Our Feis, for all levels, will be scheduled with the goal of limiting the exposure for Dancers and their Spectators. We will keep competitors in groups of similar ages and level together throughout the Feis while maintaining limits on the number of Dancers on stage and overall competition sizes.

Championship Dancers will be dancing two at a time for championship competitions. Grades Dancers will be dancing 2 or 3 at a time.

### **FACILITIES**

The Feis will be held at the Hyatt Regency Calgary ("Hyatt"). The Hyatt has implemented protocols to meet the requirements of AHS and the Government of Alberta. They also have the ability to strengthen these guidelines if they feel it is important to the safe operations of the facility.

As user groups it is our responsibility to follow the requirements as outlined by the Hyatt and ensure that we are respecting the premises. The Hyatt has the ability to cancel any and all bookings and stop the Feis from operating in their building. Not respecting the facilities protocols and procedures jeopardizes the Feis. The Hyatt requires the use of masks in public spaces for all Dancers and Participants, and Dancers may remove masks when getting ready to compete and competing.

Please be aware that these guidelines and best practices may be modified or changed, and we will do our best to provide timely updates.

While CCARS is putting forward best efforts to minimize risks per AHS guidelines during the COVID-19 pandemic, please be aware you attend the Feis at your own risk, and all Dancers or their guardians must sign "ASSUMPTION OF RISK, WAIVER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY RELATING TO COVID-19" to complete registration and attend.