

## Summary of “A Plan to A Plan to Get Back to Dancing Safely in BC Under COVID-19”

by the FVS&RDA COVID-19 Return to Dance Committee – August 8, 2020

To determine when and how square and round dancing can resume in BC, the FVS&RDA has formed a COVID-19 Return to Dance Committee headed by Dr. Blair Wallace (who develops workplace health and safety plans professionally, including those for COVID-19) with dancer and caller representatives from the Fraser Valley, Lower Vancouver Island, and the BC Square and Round Dance Federation (BCSRDF).

The committee has:

- examined the relevant current BC provincial health orders, guidelines, and phased re-opening plan;
- considered how our square and round dancing activities would have to be modified and the actions we must take to comply with these; and
- produced the attached document (“A Plan to A Plan to Get Back to Dancing Safely in BC Under COVID-19”) which explains the issues, and how we can address them, to return to dancing safely, and in compliance with BC provincial health orders and guidelines, and the Canadian Square & Round Dance Society (CSRDS) Third Party Liability Insurance.

Some key questions you may have that are addressed in the attached document are listed below. Please read the full document for further details and explanations.

- **How can we return to dancing? - A COVID-19 Safety Plan is Needed** - Each dance event must have a thorough, written, safety plan (specific to the club’s or event organizer’s operations and the dance venue) which must be understood and followed by the participants (just like all businesses in BC). **DO NOT DANCE WITHOUT A SAFETY PLAN or you could expose participants to increased risk of catching the virus, contravene public health requirements, and void liability insurance.** You can develop a plan with the assistance of the attached document and the committee which will be pleased to help you.
- **What will dancing look like under the current requirements?** – We must follow all public health protocols (like you may see at the grocery store, other businesses, or your workplace) including stay home if you feel sick; maintain 2m of “social distance” from others, wash your hands regularly; don’t touch your face; and disinfect surfaces regularly. All square, round and contra couples must be comprised of persons from a single family bubble. All square, round and contra couples and line and clog dancers must maintain 2m apart from others. No shared food and beverages can be permitted. Currently, up to 50 people can gather for an event while following all COVID-19 safety requirements (as detailed in your plan) but closer social interactions with people outside our “bubble” 2 m social distancing. Therefore, under the current restrictions, while we can square dance in squares of 8 people, couples must maintain a 2 m social distance. The wearing of none medical masks is recommended

## Summary of “A Plan to A Plan to Get Back to Dancing Safely in BC Under COVID-19”

by the FVS&RDA COVID-19 Return to Dance Committee – August 8, 2020

especially when dancing inside.

- **When can or should we restart dancing?** – Each person will have to decide if the potential health risk, and required precautions they would have to accept, are worth the benefits they feel they receive from social dancing. Reviewing the attached document and the eventual specific COVID-19 Safety Plan will help them make an informed decision. The final phase of the BC government’s Restart Plan is more than likely at least a year away and could still require modifications to our old familiar dance activities and require us to embrace the “new normal”. Due to the planning and preparation required to develop a COVID-19 Safety Plan and implement it with dancers and halls, the committee does not expect clubs would be ready to dance again until January 2021.
- **What about insurance?** – The CSRDS will maintain third party liability insurance for all currently registered dancers through the 2020/2021 dance season. This does not cover liability related to COVID-19, but we must continue to follow all laws and health regulations to maintain all other aspects of coverage. The BC government protects amateur sport organizations, their employees, and volunteers, from damages related to COVID-19 if all applicable guidance is followed, so the BCSRDF will contact the government to determine if this protection could be extended to dancing.
- **When should we start planning to return to dancing?** – The committee believes we should start now by distributing this information as widely as possible to our dance community in BC so that all clubs know how they could restart safely and responsibly, and so that dancers are reassured there is a way to resume dancing and can participate in the process if they wish. Since preparations could take some time, it is prudent to start now, so we are ready to resume safely as the opportunity to develops. We can do this, so let’s get to work and get back to dancing safely.