

Extra Precautions in the year of Covid-19

The feis reserves the right to update or change the information in this booklet.



Face masks

Face masks in public areas are currently mandated in Orange County. All attendees need to wear a face mask. This includes the lobby outside the ballrooms and all meeting rooms, attached to the feis.

Dancers do NOT need to wear a mask **while they dance** on stage, but they are welcome to wear one if they so choose.

Dancers will wear a face mask right up to the side of the stage.

All dancers will bring a small GIFT BAG with them. Please bring one or you may purchase one from the feis. Feel free to decorate, the more distinct, the better, so we don't have any mix ups.

All dancers will bring the gift bags on stage with them, remove their mask and place it in the bag, then place the bag on the floor beside them. When they finish dancing and return to their spot, retrieve the mask and re-apply before returning to the audience.

If someone has a medical condition that precludes them from wearing a face mask, then we respectfully ask that you not attend this year. We will be happy to welcome you back in a future year.

All attendees must wear their face mask correctly i.e. it must cover your mouth and nose, at all times.

Hand Sanitizer

Hand sanitizing stations will be available throughout the event.

Attendees are also encouraged to wash their hands for at least 20 seconds as often as possible.



Temperature checks

The hotel has archways installed at the entrance, that automatically checks temperatures when guests enter. No additional temperature checks will be performed by the feis volunteers.

Room set up

We have a larger ballroom than usual this year.

Vendors, used dresses, and the photographer have all been moved outside the ballroom to allow more social distancing inside.

Each dancing family will have 2 chairs with a gap of six feet between each block on all sides. Please do not move or reconfigure the seating.

We have 3 different ballrooms, one for each of our stages. Please enter by the signposted entrance for your ballroom.

The airwalls will remain open for ventilation purposes (with the exception of sound barriers between stages.) However there will be stanchions separating one room from the next.

You will NOT be able to move from one ballroom to the next. Instead you will need to exit into the lobby and use the assigned entrance for the ballroom to which you are moving.

There will also be a separate entrance for tabulation and for picking up awards.

The room will be cleared entirely before the next color block is allowed in.



Number of dancers on the stage

All dancers will perform every dance ONE at a time this year.

Champ dancers will technically perform two at a time, but each will have their OWN side of the stage. (for efficiency of time) The champ stage is 56 feet wide so each dancer will have plenty of space.

Our stages have all increased size significantly this year to accommodate this.

For Beginner, Advanced beginner, Novice & Prizewinner solos and some trophy specials dance that typically require dancers to line up on stage, the following social distancing protocols will be in place:

There will be 6 feet of distance between each designated spot. (So approximately 5 dancers will be on stage at a time)

6 feet behind the stage, there will be another 5 designated spots to hold the next line of dancers. They will step forward when the previous group vacates the stage.

On the stage, there will be a tape line 6 feet in front of the line of dancers, with a mark to start your dance. Dancers will perform their dance in front of the line, so that they will never be within 6 feet of the other dancers on the stage.

Please note that our stages will NOT be raised this year for several reasons. Firstly the exorbitant cost of raising much larger stages than usual. Secondly it allows us to more efficiently move dancers on and off stage, without close contact between them.

We will split large competitions to allow easier application of social distancing.



Audience

Families will only be assigned 2 seats, one for the dancer, one for a guardian. **So please reduce the number of guests that you bring this year.** Or they can remain in another area of the hotel.

Please leave non dancing siblings at home or outside the feis area, if possible.

Unaccompanied minors

Children must be accompanied, at all times by a guardian, except than when they are side stage.

No child will be allowed into the ballroom without a guardian. (See below for information about multiple children with only one parent present)

Unaccompanied minors will also be stopped in any of the feis areas outside the ballrooms and sent back to a guardian.

This includes the practice area. A guardian must be in close proximity.

Families

If a family has multiple dancers and only one parent/guardian with them, and they happen to be dancing on different stages at the same time, you may enter the ballroom for one child, seat them, then leave and bring the other child to the other room.

Remember to bring the printed “parent card” that displays the time block for the first child, so that you can regain access to that room.

Also remember that once you are inside the ballroom, you can see all of the other rooms so you will be able to see the child in the other room.

We strongly recommend that you assign another parent with whom you are familiar, to keep an eye on your unaccompanied child, if you are not in the ballroom.



Schedule & Room entry

Our schedule will be color coded and each block of time will be assigned a specific color

The color will appear on the back of your dancer's card and on your parent card. Only dancers in that color block will be allowed into the ballroom.

You must display either your dancer number card or your parent card to gain entry.

The next color block may enter and line up in a holding lane with 6 feet distance between groups.

Please line up no more than 15 minutes before your competition.

That includes first thing in the morning. The ballroom will not open until 7:45am.

If our schedule is running late, it will be posted on social media and at the entrance to the ballroom, so you can delay lining up.

We guarantee that no competition will start early. Therefore no one needs to be in the ballroom early "just in case."

Our feis always releases a very detailed schedule each year so you will know exactly when your competitions will run.

We also schedule BY AGE, not level, so dancers should be able to spend as little time as possible in the ballroom.

This year we will do regular updates online so you can track what competition is currently running without coming near the feis area. Instead consider enjoying what International Drive has to offer!



Seating

Hotel seating will be placed in banks of two chairs each, with 6 feet distance from any other seating.

This drastically reduces the amount of seating available.

Seating will be cleared after each time block dances.

No family will be permitted to “hold chairs” with bags & dresses.

Full time staff will be dedicated to monitoring flow of traffic in the room and dealing with unattended seating.

Seating will be sanitized overnight and from time to time during the day. However dancing families are strongly encouraged to **bring a towel or blanket** to cover their chairs, for maximum protection.

Teachers

Registered teachers should visit the Island in the center of the ballroom to pick up a pass to gain entry into the ballrooms. This will allow you to enter the ballrooms.

The front row on each stage will be designated for teachers only.



Practice areas

Multiple areas in the hotel will be designated as warm up & practice areas. Masks must still be worn in these areas. And social distancing will apply. They are all upstairs from the ballroom.

There are also some outdoor areas where dancers may practice and warm up. Please note that the outdoor areas will be on concrete.

There are NO practice areas in the ballrooms. Dancers will not be permitted to dance at the back or the sides of the ballroom. They must remain with their block of chairs. So please be warmed up arriving to the ballroom.

They will also not be permitted to dance in the lobby area other than in designated practice areas.

Spill over areas

Many “spill over” areas are available this year to hold attendees while you wait for your turn to enter the ballroom.

Downstairs, there is extensive lobby space outside the ballroom plus the pool area immediately outside. Upstairs all meeting rooms are open to us, additional lobby space plus an outdoor balcony.

Dancing families may leave bags in the upstairs meeting rooms (at your own risk) rather than occupying seats in the ballroom. The rooms will be cleared of all property over night.



Vendors

Vendors will be operating at our feis.

Vendors will have their own protocol for additional precautions. Appointments or scheduling may be necessary to prevent a crowd gathering.

Vendors will be OUTSIDE the ballroom this year, to allow more seating inside.

Most vendors will be operating from Friday evening onwards.

We do have a shoe vendor coming as we know many of you have outgrown shoes.

Used Dresses

We know that many dancers have outgrown their dresses. So we will offer a used dress resale service.

However this will operate very differently this year, to reduce the possibility of cross contamination.

There will be a small fee for this service to display a dress, as it will take considerable manpower to manage and the purchase of some equipment.

Used dresses will be kept in one secure room and may not be displayed in any other area of the hotel.

More information to follow on this process.



Friday evening

While the vendors will operate on Friday evening, the ballroom will NOT be open. There will be no access to the stages.

No number pick up is needed this year, as you will print your numbers at home before coming. (they will print on a regular paper which you then fold, i.e. you don't need index cards.

Tabulation is only available from Saturday morning onwards in order to make changes to entries/late entries.

Stage access

Once the feis finishes each day, the room will be emptied and will stay locked over night.

So no one will have access to the stages in the evening to practice.

This is because we will not have staff available to control traffic, social distancing and cross contamination from touching surfaces.



Grade level Awards

Results for Beginner, Advanced beginner, Novice & Prizewinner, including their specials will be posted ONLINE this year to avoid crowds gathering at the posting area.

Awards can be picked up at the Island in the center of the ballroom.

Dancers will retrieve their own trophy rather than having it handed to them. Medals will be distributed using a tongs.

Champ Awards

Prelim & Open Championships will be announced & presented, on the stage where they dance, immediately after dancing. So stay put when you finish dancing.

Dancers must wear a mask for the awards ceremony.

Championship Specials (Treble reel, Trad set, Non-Trad set) will be POSTED, not announced this year and dancers can pick up awards at the Island in the center of the ballroom.

This change will reduce the “mass gatherings” at the awards ceremony, making social distancing possible. It will also allow dancers to get their results much faster and leave the ballroom.

Trophies will not be on open display for attendees to potentially touch and contaminate.

When a dancer’s number is announced, they will step forward and will retrieve their own award, rather than having it handed to them. Medals will be distributed using tongs. This will reduce any potential cross contamination.



Waiver

All attendees will need to complete a waiver in advance of the feis in order to attend. More information to follow.

Dress, Hair & Make up

Please have hair and make up done in advance so we minimize the number of people gathered in the rest room at mirrors.

Please also arrive in costume.

Water stations

There will be no water stations this year due to the potential spread of Covid-19. So please bring water or you can purchase it at the hotel.

Camping

NO CAMPING will be permitted whatsoever. So please do not bring chairs or lay blankets on the ground. For obvious reasons, we need to maintain the flow of traffic and allow social distancing.



Art drop off

Entries for the art competition may be deposited at the Island on Saturday morning for Saturday's competition, and on Sunday morning for Sunday's competition.

No drop off is available on Friday night.

Artwork will remain behind a clear barrier so the general public can't touch them.



Grade Exams

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Dancers will take their exams in groups of approximately 6, so there will be 8 people approximately in the room, including the examiner, and music assistant.

As always, no parents, teachers or other spectators will be allowed in.

Dancers will be provided with a chair each, all at least 6 feet distance apart. They may also warm up in this area.

The seating is at one end of the room, the dance floor at the other end. They will go one by one to the dancefloor to perform their dances.

FACE MASKS

We are currently mandated to wear masks in all public places in Orange County, except when exercising.

All dancers will wear a mask when entering the exam room and will keep it on when they are not dancing, including warm up.

Dancers may remove their mask to perform their dances during the exam. Or they may keep them on if they so choose.

The examiner and assistant will wear their mask the entire time.

DISINFECTING

Hand sanitizer will be available both at the entrance and in the room.

Chairs will be sanitized by the hotel overnight and during lunch breaks.

Dancers are welcome to bring a clean towel or blanket to place over the chair for their own protection.

Dancers will be presented their paperwork in a folder to reduce the possibility of cross contamination.

