

Circus Juventas Winter 2021 COVID-19 Procedures Update

Updated: 12/30/2020

Starting January 4 under Governor Walz's newest order, youth sports and group classes at gyms will be able to resume and starting January 18, all elementary schools across the state may choose to move to an in-person learning model.

As Circus Juventas is such a unique organization, we fall somewhere in the realm of part school, part gym, and part youth sports. As such, we have created the following plan to ensure a safe return to classes at Circus Juventas utilizing aspects of the MDH Guidance for all three - pulling most heavily from the gym guidance we have been utilizing since start of this academic year.

Our return to winter session will look a little different this year than originally planned in order to accommodate the most recent governor orders and help mitigate any possible surge following the holidays. Please read the details below for the adjustments we will be making to our programming and COVID-19 sanitation and safety measures until the additional restrictions are loosened and we can return to our previous training model.

Winter 2021 rolling start for the first two weeks back

- Firstly, we will be initiating a partially staggered return to some classes for Winter 2021. This will help minimize the total number of students in the building during these initial weeks following the holidays as an additional precaution, and to help ensure a safe and smooth transition to these new additional safety measures and guidelines.
 - o To accomplish this, CJ staff has assessed each class on three criteria: class size, available arena space, and the total number of students in the building per hour.
 - o Using these criteria, we have identified a small number of classes that need to be split into two groups. Students enrolled in a split schedule class will be notified by email. Feel free to reach out to Adminstaff@circusjuventas.org if you have any questions.
- Additionally, all CJ Stay Safe Category 4 classes and a few Category 3 classes will be placed on hiatus for the first two weeks of session. The acts that will not be meeting the week of January 4 or January 10 are:
 - o Russian Cradle
 - o Hanging Perch
 - o Triangle Trapeze
 - o Duo Trapeze
 - o Russian Swing
 - o Russian Bar
 - o 3-Man Hand Balance
- Starting the week of January 18, in accordance with the beginning of the school return to in-person learning, we plan to remove the split class staggered start, add back to the schedule the classes that have been temporarily put on hiatus, and bring all students back to Circus Juventas classes where possible. Additional guidance is scheduled to be released the week of the 10th for both Gyms and Youth Sports, which we will review, assess, and integrate into an updated plan for January 18th and moving forward as needed.

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Additional Distancing and Capacity Requirements

- 12' distancing will be required between any student training on an apparatus/engaged in an exertive physical activity and other students.
 - o Students will maintain 6' distancing when waiting to train on an apparatus or when not actively engaged in an activity. Non-exertive stretches and warm-ups may be done at 6' distancing, but if it is a more active warm-up 12' distancing will be applied.
 - o Coaches will maintain 12' distancing from students where possible but will continue to prioritize the physical safety of the student over social distancing when needed. In some cases, coaches may need to maintain only 6' distance or less in order to spot or assist a student – particularly when working on an apparatus. Coaches will do their best to minimize close contact and maintain full social distance as much as possible.
 - o Staff, students and coaches must maintain 6' distancing outside of classes. Students who are members of the same household must still adhere to social distance guidelines while at Circus Juventas.
- All best efforts will be made to maintain 12' distance between classes in the arena. A minimum of 12' distancing will be maintained between equipment in use.
 - o To assist with this CJ will use additional visual barriers such as cones and tape-lines on the mats to indicate 12' distancing barriers.
- Building occupancy will not exceed 100 persons at any time. This includes students, coaches, staff and student coaches.
 - o This will mean that **students will no longer be permitted to wait in the building between classes**. All students are only allowed in the building if they are enrolled in class or participating in the work-study program for that hour. Please arrange to have your students picked up as needed or wait in a vehicle outside between classes.

Masking Requirement Adjustment

- All students and staff will be required to wear masks **at all times** while at Circus Juventas. Under the new order, **students are NOT permitted to remove their face covering during activities that involve a high level of exertion**.
 - o Masks may only be removed temporarily if there is a risk of the mask getting caught on an apparatus and become a choking hazard or could impair vision. The student must resume wearing their face covering as soon as possible after temporarily removing it for the activity. As described in the youth sports guidance, examples of this type of exception are:
 - High-Contact sports/activities – such as wrestling or CJ Stay Safe Category 4 classes.
 - Advanced tumbling, partner acrobatics or flying tricks – such as is seen in competitive cheerleading and high-level circus acts.
 - Training on an apparatus where the mask may get caught and possibly impair vision or become a choking hazard – such as some aerial fabric acts and similar apparatuses.
 - o If a student feels they need to remove their mask for any reason, please always check with your coach to receive permission and ensure you are as socially distant as possible while

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the mask is temporarily removed. Excepting for these special circumstances, students must wear face coverings at all times and especially during any physical activity.

- Please note, students are not permitted to consume food or beverages (other than water) at the big top. Students should keep water breaks brief to ensure the smallest amount of time where students are unmasked, and ensure they are properly socially distanced before removing their mask to drink.

What about the *Hygge Holiday Show*?

- Currently, we are hopeful the *Hygge Holiday* show will be able to continue as planned on our re-scheduled dates for the end of January. However, we will only be able to produce this show if MDH guidance is updated to allow indoor theatrical performances. The current guidance banning all indoor performances is set to expire on January 10th – we will see at that time if the replacement guidance allows for performance. We appreciate your patience!