



Tap Happy Coronavirus Update May 26, 2020

Dear Tap Happy Community Members,

In planning for Tap Happy this summer and beyond, our first priority is the safety and health of our students and faculty. Tap Happy participants are so much more than simply clients...we are a community that loves sharing laughter, learning, and the joy of physically tap dancing together! We care about each other's well-being, and I know we are all anxious to meet in the studio again.

After considering the most recent state and local guidelines, along with the latest factual updates from leaders in the healthcare and medical research industries, scientists, and dance support organizations, I have concluded that this summer is not a safe time to meet for in-studio classes. Here are the most important reasons:

- Although we could be considered a "gym", and are allowed to open with restrictions, we would be breathing hard during the usually-aerobic classes, sharing air, and we instructors would be hollering over the loud taps and music, projecting into our shared space along with everyone else's breath. This is simply what happens in tap dance classes. And wearing masks while tap dancing is not an appealing, practical, or reasonable idea.
- Although we could limit the number in a class, students in the later classes would still be exposed to the risk that remains from the previous class, and possibly from the previous day, as the exposure risk can continue for 24 hours.
- By design, Tap Happy naturally and happily includes community members who are currently considered high-risk (for both age and medical conditions).
- Operating at 25% capacity, a state-required restriction, means our enrollment would be below the number that I normally consider a viable class size for a reasonable minimum profit margin; I normally cancel classes with so few participants.

I know that you want to keep dancing this summer and beyond, and I know how healing and uplifting it is to learn and practice tap dancing. So here is the plan of offerings to keep you moving while we can't meet in person:

Summer Term, 2020

- The Tap Happy Video Supplement (THVS) is now the Tap Happy Video Subscription (THVS). This will provide online access to the video course at your technique level.
- Beginning on June 1st, three courses will be available for a monthly subscription rate of \$25 per month each, in these three courses:
 - Introductory Tap (You'll receive access to the complete course of videos all at once)
 - Beginning I Tap (You'll receive access to the complete course of videos all at once)
 - Beginning II Tap (You'll receive access to the complete library of Beginning II videos all at once)
- Beginning on July 1st, at least one more course of videos will be added to the selection:
 - All-Level TapAerobics (an hour's worth of cardio-tap dance routines for those who have the equivalent of the Introductory Tap material mastered, or beyond).
- Intermediate Tap students who already have access to intermediate videos will continue to have access.
 - Intermediate tappers may also choose to subscribe to the Beginning II Tap library.
 - Intermediate tappers may choose to subscribe to TapAerobics beginning in July.
- The subscriptions will continue at least to the end of August.
- An announcement will be emailed and posted when the subscription system is ready, later this week.

Plan for the Fall Term, 2020

- Tap Happy is normally closed during the month of August. We will maintain this rhythm, with the added option of at-home tap dancing via the THVS for those who choose it.

- Fall classes normally begin the day after Labor Day, which this year is Tuesday, September 8, 2020. I hope we can resume our normal annual rhythm of classes at that time. However...
 - I will continue to stay current with recommendations from Dance Source Houston, Dance USA, the CDC, WHO, and with regulations by state and local officials.
 - I will continue to develop our health & safety protocols for returning safely to the studio, based on best practices in the dance field and CDC recommendations, and in coordination with our building partners, the Claire School of Dance and Grace United Methodist Church.
 - Based on the situation in mid-August and all of the above, a final fall plan will be made and announced in the second half of August.

Well, if there were ever a time for developing patience and flexibility, and getting comfy living with the unknown, this is it, right? We are being stretched and challenged in a new way! I want to thank all of you for your patience and your kind words and thoughts during this time of constant change and restrictions. Your kindness and optimism mean the world to me, and remind me of why I love our tap dance community...it is made of people like you! Thank you for not giving up! Although we don't know for sure when, we will return to the studio to dance and visit together in person again! We will have so much to celebrate when we do!

With gratitude, joy and hope,

Sara

Sara Draper

TAP HAPPY

"Best Adult Tap Dance Classes" 2014 - 2016 Houston Press Award

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