

## **How DFJ is protecting against the spread of illnesses including COVID-19 (Coronavirus)**

The safety of our staff and students is our first priority. Therefore, we continue to monitor websites for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Whatcom County Health Department daily to stay current on prevention measures specifically for childcare facilities and schools. Those recommended protocols are as follows:

*Help students and staff reduce their risk for getting and spreading viral respiratory infections, including the flu and the common cold, by encouraging them to take simple steps which will also prevent COVID-19. These include:*

- Staying home when they are sick.*
- Frequent hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after they blow their nose. Help young children do the same. If hands are visibly dirty, use soap and water to clean hands.*
- If soap and water are not readily available, using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.*
- Advising persons to avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.*
- Following the school's routine cleaning and disinfection program. Emphasize cleaning and disinfection of frequently touched objects and surfaces.*
- Covering coughs or sneezes with a tissue, then throwing the tissue in the trash and cleaning hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer (if soap and water are not readily available).*
- Providing adequate supplies for good hygiene, including clean and functional handwashing stations, soap, paper towels, and alcohol-based hand sanitizer.*

We have also increased our standards for cleaning and disinfecting our studios as well as our bathrooms, lobbies and staff areas. We have put additional hand sanitizer around the studio for easy access. Our instructors have been reminded to have students sanitize or wash their hands before and after class.

We have no plans to cancel classes at this time. We will follow instructions provided by our health organizations if that is advised in the future.

Meanwhile, keep students home if they are sick. Please take time to familiarize yourself with the Whatcom County Health Department's coverage as it pertains to our area specifically.