

Dear Dancing Friends,

We're excited to share with you the news that our club is getting ready to resume our weekly Tuesday night dances! However, there are some new policies dancers will have to abide by as we navigate the tricky waters of covid-era gatherings.

Out of an abundance of caution for our dancers, and respecting the wishes of our hosts at Newport House – in whose home we are guests, and who are also concerned for their other, paying, visitors – we are instituting the following policies for the reopening of the club:

- All attendees must be vaccinated against covid-19, and will be asked to show proof of vaccination to enter Newport House this summer. Given the danger and contagiousness of the disease and its variants, the high proportion of demographically high-risk individuals who attend, and the frequent partner-switching and impossibility of social distancing in English Country Dancing, we have determined that this is the best way for us to safely hold a dance event at this time. (In asking for proof of vaccination we do not mean to suggest a lack of trust in the wonderful folks who come dancing; it's simply a matter of ensuring peace of mind for the people around you and, importantly, for the guests staying at Newport House and our hosts there.)
- At this time, all attendees will also have to be masked. (Callers will be unmasked when calling dances, to ensure they can be heard.) This is a specific requirement of our venue.
- Please bring your own water for hydration (preferably in a sealable container to prevent spills), as there will not be a communal water cooler or cups available.
- We will have hand sanitizer available, as well as plentiful soap and water in the bathroom.

We realize and respect that some may not like or agree with all of these policies, but they are the ground rules that have been set for us in order to resume dancing in our usual time and location. We expect to be able to reevaluate the situation and revisit the necessity of these policies as the summer progresses. (Please understand that if you choose to attend you do so at your own risk; please do not attend if you have a fever or any reason to believe you may have covid-19.)

All of that said: we are very excited to resume dancing on Tuesday, **June 15, 2021**, at 8pm! (We recommend arriving a little early so everyone can check in before we get started.)

At the moment we still have a workshop with Joanna Reiner Wilkinson on our schedule for Saturday, August 28, in Henrico; we will let you know any further developments regarding that event as they happen.

Wishing you all good health and hoping to see you on the dance floor soon,
The Williamsburg Heritage Dancers