

# NEW DCC COVID SAFETY MEASURES

- Thanks to the 56 students and artists who responded to our COVID SAFETY survey and made many helpful suggestions which formed our Action Plan below.
  - Thanks to Connor and Jon for helping to implement these measures at District Clay.
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## **Action Plan (all these to be completed by 10/19/2020)**

**1) Safety Refresher Course** next week: Teachers will start all their classes with a Safety Refresher Course that will cover sign in procedures, cleaning and sanitizing workstations and tools and social distancing guidelines (including sink, pick-up and glaze tables).

**2) New Teacher Guidelines:** Teachers will be instructed to enforce social distancing guidelines by politely asking students to remember to distance themselves. They will also do increased monitoring of sinks during clean up and of the pickup and glaze areas.

**3) New Procedures/Changes for Sink, Pick-up Shelves and Glaze Table:** We will create new social distance markers for the sinks and pick up areas so that students can see where to wait while these areas are being used. We are adding new paper towel dispensers that are easier to use and more reliable contactless soap dispensers. We are moving the clay cubbies across from the sinks to provide more throughway space. Regarding the glaze table, we are moving most supplies/tools/underglazes off that table to a new glaze supply table so that people don't reach over other people when glazing.

**4) New Anti-Crowding Measures:** Each week we look at trends from our Traffic Tracker which is derived from our sign in sheets. To reduce crowding in the wheel rooms, we are opening a **new mini-wheel room** to all students, artists and drop-ins. This room has four socially distanced wheels and is located behind the entry desk and to the right as you enter the Center. We have also added new **Open Studio time for students on Sundays from 5:30-8 pm**. As we monitor traffic, we may restrict the number of drop ins during certain times of day.

**5) Improved Sign-In Procedures and Equipment:** We are making the Sign-In form easier to use and making it more clear in our instructions that you should sanitizer *and* wash your hands. We have ordered a *wall mounted* contactless forehead thermometer for that table.

**6) KN95 masks now Available to Students:** District Clay is now selling Powecom KN95 masks at cost (\$3 each) to students. In terms of filtration ability, these masks are equivalent to N95 masks which provide the highest particulate filtration of 95% or higher and have been certified by the FDA. These are reusable masks but should be disposed of when dirty or air flow is reduced. They should not be washed. District Clay will supply a plastic bag with instructions that can be kept on the student's shelf.

**7) New Sanitizer Stations:** We are adding new sanitizer stations in the pickup areas and outside the District Clay Exit door in the glaze room.

**8) Increased Airflow through the Center:** We have added a large exhaust fan which circulates fresh air from the front of the Center to the rear at least eight times an hour, which meets or exceeds most guidelines for

indoor air recirculation (the federal government has not yet published a standard.) We are also utilizing another exhaust fan in the kiln room to increase fresh air flow into the Center.

9) We are **Repairing Wobbly Plexiglass Barriers** in the Handbuilding Room.

**10) New Self-Quarantine Rules:** We have changed our procedures so that students who need to self-quarantine can do so multiple times during a 10-week session. Student classes will be suspended during self-quarantine.

**11) Notification of Positive Cases:** We want to clarify that we will immediately notify *all* people (students, DCC artists and drop ins) who come *into close contact* with any student, teacher or staff member who tests positive. Close contact is defined by the CDC as *being within six feet of this person for an extended period of time (15 minutes or more)*. For example, the CDC does not consider someone who walks past someone who is infected to be at risk because they would not be exposed to enough virus to cause infection.

To apply this standard to District Clay, someone who was working in the wheel room or handbuilding room with someone who tested positive would immediately be notified while someone who was in another room at District Clay or at District Clay next day would not be notified. This is because airborne infection *requires close and sustained contact; studies show the virus quickly degrades in open air*. In addition, all teachers will be notified about a case and an **Incident Report** will be posted on the bulletin board by the bathrooms. In our sole positive case to date, we interviewed the student and the teacher within hours of being notified and notified all people in her class and with whom she had contact by the end of the day.

12) Put up a **DCC Suggestion Box** so we can get your comments, ideas, and concerns faster.

*If you have questions about these steps, please contact Cass Johnson at [cass@districtclaycenter.com](mailto:cass@districtclaycenter.com).*