



ASK ARTS # 22

COVID-19 AND DANCING



By Del Reed
(July 2021)

Dear ARTS,

The COVID-19 worldwide pandemic hit the USA nearly 18 months ago. Our club and the others in our area stopped dancing shortly thereafter. We have heard about how Round Dance clubs have been able to restart dancing. Unfortunately, all the square dance clubs in our area were shut down, primarily due to social distancing requirements.

We have heard many square dance clubs are restarting. We are wondering how they are doing. We are looking forward to getting back to dancing .

Motivated in Montana

Dear Motivated,

The COVID-19 pandemic has devastated the entire world. The economic damage bankrupted a very large number of businesses and the damage to working people will take years to recover.

Almost all dancing in the USA stopped shortly after the pandemic hit the country. The hardest hit were Square and Contra Dancing, primarily due to the 6-foot social distance requirements. As guidelines became clear, several Round Dance clubs got back to dancing. They were able to meet the various requirements much more easily that Square and Contra clubs.

After the vaccine became widely available and more people got vaccinated the guidelines evolved until now fully vaccinated people do not need to wear masks nor do they have to observe the 6 feet social distancing. Under the new guidelines more and more Square Dance clubs have restarted dancing. We note the 70th NSDC was held in June, 2021 in Jackson, MS. We are also hearing reports of numerous clubs restarting dancing.

We are VERY encouraged with the positive reports we are hearing. We believe dancing WILL return to normal. The challenge now is to publicize our dance events and encourage ALL dancers to rejoin the activity.

We wish you the best in your efforts to get you club back to dancing

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