

TEXARKANA, Texas — The Texarkana Community Ballet announced this year's performances of "The Nutcracker" are canceled.

"Nutcracker" performances with community members dancing on the Perot Theatre stage have been an annual holiday favorite for many years in Texarkana. But the ongoing pandemic put the kibosh on this year's plans.

It's terrible but unavoidable, said TCB Board President Patti Thomas in an interview.

"It's just something that we cannot help. You cannot risk a child getting sick or their entire family getting sick because we wanted to have a 'Nutcracker,'" Thomas said.

The Texarkana Community Ballet announced the decision on its Facebook page, stating, "As Texarkana Community Ballet continues to prioritize the health and well-being of its dancers, teachers, patrons, and the community, we have made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 Nutcracker Ballet."

The large cast can't rehearse in a traditional manner or even audition as they typically do because of Texas health guidelines and recommendations, the TCB explained.

Thomas said that first and foremost this decision came down to the safety of their dancers. "We've got to keep these kids safe," she said.

Despite this, they're looking forward to being back together when it's feasible.

"We're very hopeful that the current situation will improve and we can move forward and prepare for next year," Thomas said.