



March 4, 2020

Dear Parents & Guardians -

In everything we do, the safety of Cape Abilities participants and staff is our top concern. In light of that, you are receiving this letter from me in response to the growing concerns about the presence of COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) on Cape Cod. We understand and share your concerns and have been actively discussing how we can best support and protect your loved one in their Cape Abilities home and/or while they attend Cape Abilities programs.

Although the risk of Coronavirus contamination remains low, details about this virus remains a rapidly changing situation, and we will continue to provide you with regular updates as we receive them and as they affect the care of our participants and staff. We are developing plans to address the issues that may arise from an increase in community transmission, if that should occur.

At Cape Abilities, it is our responsibility to do all we can to minimize the introduction and spread of the Coronavirus within our facilities. This virus, like influenza, is spread by droplets of fluid released by an infected individual when they sneeze or cough. We want to assure you that we are in contact with the Local and State Health Departments to put proactive safety measures into place. In addition, we are following recommendations from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) to daily clean program and residential areas and equipment frequently touched by participants and staff, and we are encouraging all to wash their hands often.

We are asking parents to help in the effort to minimize the spread of this type of virus by having your family follow the recommendations from the CDC, which are the same ones that everyone should practice during flu season:

- Wash your hands with soap and water often. If unable to wash, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Avoid touching your face, eyes or mouth with unwashed hands
- Clean your work area with disinfectant regularly
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick, and keep your distance from others if you are sick
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. Throw the tissue away, and then wash or sanitize your hands. If a tissue is not available, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve;
- Avoid shaking hands whenever possible.

This outbreak is being taken very seriously by health experts and public health authorities, but this does not mean you need to be overly worried or anxious. We encourage parents and guardians to report to us if their loved one has a confirmed case of the flu to help us track viral infections and to better target our sanitizing efforts.

Also, please visit these websites to stay up-to-date on the Coronavirus, and to help get you started on putting together a personal, emergency plan with your family, friends and or household:

- from Barnstable County Health Officials - <http://www.capecodtoday.com/article/2020/02/07/251499-Updates-Coronavirus-Info-Barnstable-County-Health-Officials>
- from Barnstable County Department of Health and Environment - <https://www.barnstablecountyhealth.org/newsroom/updates-to-coronavirus-information>
- from Cape Cod Healthcare - <https://www.capecodhealth.org/medical-services/infectious-disease/whats-the-latest-on-the-coronavirus/>
- from Mass Health - up-to-date relevant info - <https://www.mass.gov/2019coronavirus>
- from the Center for Disease Control (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Rest assured, we will continue to monitor both the Center for Disease Control and Department of Public Health for recommendations, and we will provide you with more guidance as appropriate.

Thank you for your help and support as we do all that we can to plan and prepare for the Coronavirus.

Sincerely,

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COMPASSION



INCLUSION



INNOVATION



INTEGRITY



RESPECT
