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March 10, 2020

Dear BCYL Staff, Parents and Volunteers,

BCYL is responding to the outbreak of Covid-19 by working with our partners and following the guidance of the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH), the Mayor's and Governor's Offices. As of today BCYL has cancelled scheduled events for March that consist of 100 or more people. We also urge if anyone is sick not to report to work or any BCYL activities or programs. Individuals will be provided the opportunity to wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, alcohol-based hand sanitizer will be provided.

Below you will find the information and links that were provided by Governor Lamont's office. Please feel free to share the information. We will communicate updates as they become available.

Sincerely,

John Torres

From Governor Ned Lamont:

We are urging residents to take all necessary precautions and [follow guidelines issued by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC).

The CDC, as well as the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH), have compiled helpful information on how to keep homes and workplaces safe from illnesses, travel tips on how to prevent infection, and what to do in the event of an outbreak in your community. This guidance is available on DPH's website at ct.gov/coronavirus, and on our associated social media channels.

The Connecticut Department of Public Health Laboratory was [cleared to start testing for COVID-19](#), and the first tests were recently conducted. This federal clearance provides our state with the ability to move quickly on testing, accelerating our response in the event of a positive case.

I am urging you and all of our residents to remain vigilant and prepared for what the future may hold. That means taking these steps to ensure you and your family are prepared:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid shaking hands as a greeting. A simple head nod achieves the same goal.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

This is a rapidly-evolving situation, and that leads to a great deal of misinformation being disseminated about COVID-19 and its spread. There is no link between race or ethnicity and the spread of coronavirus. Viruses do not discriminate.

It's especially important that our students and children receive this message to prevent bullying and harassment in our schools. Facts and science, proven public health measures, and commonsense precautions in our personal lives are the best measures we can take to protect both the people we serve at work and our friends and families at home.

Thank you,

Ned Lamont
Governor

