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Dear families,

With the growing concern internationally and locally regarding the Coronavirus, Milestones wanted to provide a follow-up update about our latest guidance regarding COVID-19 and Milestones' preparation.

As I shared yesterday, Milestones has no knowledge of any Milestones' students, faculty, or family members who have been impacted by COVID-19; however, we have focused very diligent attention toward proactive planning in order to best support the health and safety of the Milestones community. Guidance for schools surrounding COVID-19 continues to rapidly evolve, but the information below reflects our most up to date information as of the close of business yesterday evening.

Staying Abreast:

- **School Guidance:** On a daily basis, Milestones is following all related advisories of the CDC, Massachusetts and local departments of Public Health, the Massachusetts Department of Education, Massachusetts Association of 766 Approved Private Schools, legal partners, and the Governor's office as it pertains to safety surrounding Coronavirus. We have participated in group-based conference calls for Massachusetts schools and are staying abreast of the most up to date public health guidelines. We have also sought individual guidance from DPH regarding Milestones' unique environment as a private special education school that services students from multiple districts.

Guidelines and Healthy Practices:

- **Healthy Practices at School:** The same preventative measures that are offered to protect against the risk of colds and flus have also been advised to protect against COVID-19. Within Milestones, we have increased our daily disinfecting efforts (e.g., high touch surfaces such as door knobs, desks, tables, chairs, hand rails etc.) and students are being regularly reminded and prompted to follow best practices for preventing germs (ex: frequent handwashing at the recommended 20+ seconds; avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth; cover sneezes through the use of a sleeve or tissue; social distancing to limit touch; giving "elbow bumps" instead of "high fives" etc.). We encourage families to remind your students about these practices at home as well.
- **Healthy Attendance:** For the wellness of our community, we continue to emphasize the importance of families and staff being mindful about whether students/staff are presenting as healthy to attend school and participate in programming. If students are home sick and you are concerned about your student missing schoolwork, please contact your student's case manager who would be happy to make arrangements.
- **Notification if Coronavirus is Suspected/Confirmed:** Parents have also inquired how schools will be notified if a member of our community tests positive or is in close contact with someone who

tests positive. While the MA Department of Public Health (DPH) and CDC are key agencies, accurate local on the ground information is often more efficient. We are asking all families and staff members to keep us informed of potential exposures and symptomatic illness. By working together, we can help keep our schools as safe as possible. Your assistance will allow us to make quick decisions and prioritize resources effectively. If you believe you or anyone in your family has had contact with an individual who has been exposed to COVID-19, please call the MA Department of Public Health at 617-983-6500 and notify Kim Rockers (CEO) at: krockers@advancingmilestones.com or Lyn Ross (School Nurse) at: lross@advancingmilestones.com or call: 781-895-3200 and ask to be connected with Kim or Lyn.

Additionally, we have been advised by DPH that presumed positive cases in Massachusetts are being treated as if they are confirmed. When cases are confirmed or presumptive positive, DPH assumes responsibility for identifying any “close contacts” and will send alerts to individuals, schools, or agencies who may be impacted and will confirm necessary next steps. In the event of illness, DPH recommends that you make medical providers aware that a member of your household attends Milestones, which services students from many districts.

- Questions about School Closings: Milestones will follow advisories from DPH and the CDC regarding decision-making related to possible school closings. Yesterday Governor Baker confirmed that Massachusetts will permit regulatory flexibility for public schools if closings need to occur this spring due to Coronavirus. We are awaiting further information from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, which we anticipate will be issued this week, regarding how guidelines apply to the specific regulations of 766 special education schools.
- What if Waltham public school is impacted? Milestones aligns weather-related decisions about school closings with Waltham public schools, but this does not apply to health-related closings as our school communities are not in direct contact. Milestones will reserve its own discretion based on the needs of our school community.
- Travel and Isolation:
High Risk Areas: Present guidance from the CDC and DPH is that any individuals returning from countries that have been identified as the highest risk must self-quarantine and monitor for 14 days. While it is unlikely that additional international travel will continue to these high-risk areas in the foreseeable future, Milestones will expand this quarantine to students and staff if a member of their household plans to travel to these areas. If you or anyone in your family has travelled recently to (or through) China, Italy, South Korea, Iran or Japan, please contact Kim Rockers or Lyn Ross.

Personal/Business: For many, canceling travel plans for business and personal reasons feels prudent. However, at this time, there is no overall guidance to schools from the CDC or DPH to quarantine individuals (and close family members) who travel domestically or to other international countries that are not on the CDC’s list of high risk countries. As we continue to receive information, new restrictions or policy changes may be recommended. We will update the school community if guidelines change.

School-sponsored trips: Massachusetts schools have been encouraged to cancel all school-sponsored international and domestic trips.

- Milestones’ Programming Changes: In response to recommendations from Governor Baker and Commissioner Riley, Milestones will be implementing a few restrictions.

- (1) Unfortunately, we will be postponing our 11th-12th grade students' overnight trip in Boston until further notice. We are similarly postponing all related fundraising events with the exception of the restaurant reimbursement fundraiser organized through the Waltham Chateau on March 26th (see attached flyer). All donations that have been received thus far will be put toward this trip, once rescheduled.
 - (2) In addition, we are suspending staff's attendance at any in-person offsite conferences for the foreseeable future.
 - (3) We will make select case-by-case adjustments to our community based programming for high school and post high school students (e.g., suspending the use of public transportation for travel training; suspending our internship involvement with a Senior Center given their high risk for illness, etc).
- Supporting Students: The Coronavirus can be anxiety ridden for students. Our clinicians and faculty are available for processing with students, and we have access to age-appropriate resources and tools to assist (as appropriate).

Milestones will continue to keep you abreast of any timely updates, and we appreciate that we're a community that works together on behalf of all our students, staff and families.

Sincerely,
Kim