

# *S<sup>D</sup> Associates LLC*

**Behavioral Services** Assessment, Consultation, Training and Direct Service  
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To: S<sup>D</sup> Families

From: Lesha Rasco/Operations Director

Date: March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020

RE: Coronavirus

I'm writing to let you all know that S<sup>D</sup> Associates is aware of the concerns that you many have about the coronavirus (COVID-19) and the potential implications it could have for our community. We are reading and staying informed with the information from the Vermont Department of Health, the agency leading the response to the virus and we will continue to check in with them for guidance along with the CDC.

To date, there are no confirmed cases reported in Vermont, but should the situation change, the Vermont Department of Health and the Agency of Education will coordinate to alert every S<sup>D</sup>/SU and its schools about specific preparedness and response guidelines to follow that S<sup>D</sup> Associates will cooperate with.

Many of the precautions that help prevent other respiratory diseases, like colds and the flu, can also help [keep an illness like COVID-19 from spreading](#).

These are the routine behaviors that our staff and clients at S<sup>D</sup> will be encouraged to follow:

- Frequent handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- 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 your sleeve or a tissue. Throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

In efforts to maintain a healthy environment for students and staff, keep your child home if they are experiencing:

- Fever, 100 F or above, currently or within previous 24 hours
- Diarrhea or vomiting, currently or within previous 24 hours
- A persistent sore throat with fever or enlarged tonsils/glands

Please do not send your child back to school/program until they have been symptom-free without fever-reducing medications for at least 24 hours. Please inform your child's BCBA of any sick like behaviors or diagnose your child is experiencing or has recently.

In our buildings our custodial staff is diligently using disinfectants in a safe and effective manner and to clean up potentially infectious materials.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has established geographic risk-stratification criteria for the purpose of issuing travel health notices for countries with coronavirus (COVID-19) transmission. Level 3 is the highest risk stratification currently identified, which is defined as "widespread sustained (ongoing) transmission." The following four countries are currently listed at a level 3 risk (this list is subject to change):

- China
- Iran
- South Korea
- Italy

If your child(ren) or family have traveled to one of these countries, you must inform the SD immediately. We will provide the Vermont Department of Health with your contact information so they can follow up with you on your health status.

In order to prevent the spread of this disease, we highly recommend that the below action is completed relative to their return to program:

\*Have your doctor test your child for the virus before they return to program. Please note that not all doctors are willing to test individuals who are not showing any symptoms, so please be sure to inquire when scheduling the appointment.

If you have concerns about COVID-19, please visit the [Vermont Department of Health's COVID-19 website](#) or dial 2-1-1 for more information.