

March 18, 2020

Dear Clients, Families & Staff:

There continue to be new developments regarding the coronavirus outbreak published each day and Autism Learning Partners leadership is doing our best to keep up with new information. We will update this note regularly as we learn more or change our response given the facts as we know them.

First, it is absolutely our goal and mission to keep all our clients and staff safe throughout this uncertain time.

We have been in direct communication with the Center For Disease Control (CDC) and county health departments concerning the type of healthcare that we provide and the appropriate measures that should be taken given that our care meets the thresholds for **medical necessity**. These governmental health departments have communicated that home-health care, behavioral health care and ancillary medical services are a part of the *essential services* that should continue to be delivered during this time of social distancing to flatten the curve.

We have also sought clarity that the President's issue of limiting gatherings to 10-persons or less is specifically for social gatherings and non-essential work gatherings. As a result, we have moved non-essential services out of our clinics and severely limited all clinic-based services based on an individual assessment of a child and family's needs. We have been focusing on moving all 1:1 ABA services into homes. We have also taken precautions to increase our sanitation and cleaning protocols at all of our offices. We are reducing the number of persons in our offices to ensure that everyone is able to maintain the recommended 6 feet of distance while ensuring that we can support our staff and families. **Our goal is to ensure that we are doing everything we can to stop the transmission of COVID-19.**

We are also working with our IT department to determine how we can utilize technology solutions during this time to support access and delivery of care. **Please watch for updated information, as we expect this to evolve very quickly over the next few days.**

We're encouraging families that have immune compromised family members or family members over the age of 60 to implement strict social distancing and sanitation measures or to suspend services during this time. We want to support our families as best we can to make the best choice for their family. We also realize that some of our staff will make the hard decision not to work during this time as many will also have family members with compromised immune systems or family members over the age of 60 in their homes, and we also want to support them during this season.

We are deeply passionate about respecting and supporting the complicated and hard choices that all of us are having to make at this time. We recognize that not everyone will agree with our choice at this time to continue to provide care. We believe that for some of our families and clients, our care is a life-line that is changing their lives and we feel compelled to continue to provide that care.

We are also following closely all the state and federal programs that are being put in place to support employees across the country. Our HR team is working around the clock to understand and disseminate information about available benefits to employees that need or desire to stop working during this time.

For those who do still want to work, we believe that we can still offer the opportunity to care in a prudent manner, as there are many clients and families who desperately want and need care, especially without some of the structural supports that they are used to (e.g. schools).

Please follow all communications sent to you regarding health and hygiene, because it is still vital to the containment efforts that each person do their part to keep everyone around them safe. We have initiated a safety checklist to be used before each and every client session.

We so appreciate the wonderful employees we have at Autism Learning Partners and the efforts that everyone is making to appropriately care for those in need during this challenging moment for our world.

Sincerely,

Gina Chang

Gina T. Chang, Ph.D BCBA-D
President & Chief Operating Officer

Richard Fish

Richard Fish
Chief Executive Officer