



Student and Family Update - Resuming Campus Operations

May 18, 2020

Dear Students and Families:

We are eager to resume campus-based services and miss our students! We hope everyone is safe and healthy during this difficult time. The Horizons School has as a priority the health and wellbeing of its students, families, staff and volunteers. In that spirit, a **Plan to Resume Campus Operations** was developed with attention to the latest guidance from government, health and education officials.

Governor Ivey's Safer at Home order continues all school closures for in-person instruction until further notice. Vulnerable individuals include students with neurodevelopmental conditions. These persons should continue to shelter-in-place and limit contact with sick persons. We will welcome students back to campus as soon as it is safe to do so.

First, we must twice meet the "gating criteria of downward trajectory of documented cases within a 14-day period, or downward trajectory of positive tests as a percent of total tests within a 14-day period." To date, Alabama has *not* met these criteria. Testing, case identification and contact tracing by state health officials are increasing.

Families may help us to prepare for students' return by continuously emphasizing individual preventive practices so that these become habits. These include regular hand washing, sneezing and coughing in tissues and then discarding these, frequently disinfecting commonly used home items and surfaces, and using face coverings when in public. Those with illness symptoms should remain at home and consult a physician.

When we are able to resume campus services, we will follow public health and government guidelines by encouraging use of face coverings and gloves, social distancing, temperature checks, appropriate sanitation, regular disinfection of common contact points, and limiting non-essential travel. At that time, Horizons will practice safer work spaces (staff temperature checks, handwashing, staying home when ill), and may stagger school schedules.

When the school welcomes students back, we will be making some accommodations as needed to increase everyone's safety including modifying class meeting times, layout, student enrollment, residential activities, job training and community access. A signed

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waiver will be required before resuming your student's participation. Horizons will continue to provide hand soap, sanitizer, paper towels and tissues in public spaces.

Prudent action following public health guidelines will reduce risk of infection and enable us to resume campus activities in a safe and effective manner as soon as it is safe to do so. Until then, we will continue to provide support, classes, and activities remotely for our students.

Please encourage your student to participate as often as possible. If your student is struggling with any assignment reach out to their advisor and one-on-one help will be provided. We value your continued support and trust in our School!

Sincerely,

Brian F. Geiger

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