

Updated School Closure Information

March 20th, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians and Staff,

We hope this letter finds your family healthy and safe. As we end our first week on the e-learning platform we wanted to provide further information that has come from local and federal public health officials. We want to assure you that our Pandemic Response Team is continuing to closely monitor the situation as it rapidly changes daily. We will continue to provide our families and staff with the most up to date information as it is given to us.

On March 19th, 2020 the State Department issued a Global Health Level 4 Advisory. This advisory states U.S. citizens should avoid all international travel. In addition, the advisory states all U.S. citizens who are currently traveling abroad should make immediate plans to return to the United States, unless they are prepared to remain abroad for an indefinite period.

On March 20th, 2020 the Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker announced that Illinois will be starting **Shelter-in-Place practices on Saturday, March 21st, 2020 at 5 p.m. through the end of day April 7th, 2020**. This will extend our closure status as well as our e-learning platform to **include April 6th and 7th, 2020**. Giant Steps and all related services will remain closed until **April 8, 2020**. It is hopeful that these restrictions will help slow down the spread of COVID-19. Pritzker also stated the end date may change depending on how the health situation progresses. This order restricts non-essential travel. Facilities such as grocery stores, pharmacies, medical facilities, municipality operations and gas stations will remain open. There is no need to change your normal purchasing patterns. Please do not hoard supplies.

- *We will be monitoring the changing climate of school closure carefully and if any additional changes are made we will be sure to keep you informed.*

Last week information was sent home regarding which medications can be taken for a fever. At that time current recommendations were the use of Tylenol and Ibuprofen to reduce a fever. Additional information has later come out from the World Health Organization (WHO) indicating the use of Ibuprofen **may not be advised for the use of fever reduction with COVID-19**. Please follow up with your healthcare provider for further guidance.

As this is a difficult time for our entire community, Giant Steps is dedicated to helping our community partners in the healthcare field. Currently, Giant Steps is contacting Edwards Hospital and the Lisle Fire Department to donate personal protective equipment. This equipment includes masks, disposable gowns, and gloves. These supplies are used by healthcare workers to protect themselves from exposure to viruses so they can continue to help people in need.

Giant Steps will continue to be in contact with our families and staff throughout the next few weeks with developments as they come. We ask that families that are affected by COVID-19 notify the Organizational Nurse, Jillian Hildebrand, at (630)864-3875. Staff members that are affected by COVID-19 are asked to contact Human Resources Manager, Tracy Brody, at (630)864-3844.

Thank you for all your dedication and hard work during this rapid transition to an e-learning model. I realize this pivot has been immediate and impactful on your daily life. If you have any questions or comments you would like to share, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Resources: *Chicago Public Health. Illinois Department of Public Health*

*Regards,
Dr. Sylvia Smith*



Dr. Sylvia Smith | Executive Director

Giant Steps | 2500 Cabot Drive | Lisle, Illinois | 60532

P: 630.864.3808 | F: 630.864.3820 | mygiantsteps.org

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