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June 26, 2020

Dear TEC Parent/Guardians and Staff:

Yesterday, Governor Baker's office and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) released their initial guidance about reopening schools this fall. We applaud the level of thought and care that went into the development of this guidance, and share its goal of the safe return of as many students as possible to an in-person settings in order to best meet our students' complex needs.

We are reviewing this latest guidance to begin to understand how it impacts TEC's programs and services. We also acknowledge that these initial guidelines do not address every topic and that there will still be additional guidance coming throughout the summer. The full DESE guidance document can be found [here](#), but here are some key components:

- Current medical research supports a safe in-person return to school - with preventive measures in place - as infection and transmission rates are lower for children than adults.
- Preventive measures include masks, face coverings, physical distancing, handwashing, and cleaning frequently touched surfaces.
- Adults, including educators and staff, are required to wear masks/face coverings.
- Exceptions to mask/face covering requirements must be made for those for whom it is not possible due to medical conditions, disability impact, or other health or safety factors.
- Additional safety precautions are required for school nurses and/or any staff supporting students with disabilities in close proximity, when distance is not possible.
- Based upon current medical research, and in conjunction with other preventive measures, a minimum physical distance of three feet has been established.

The TEC staff is reviewing this new guidance and using it to inform our planning for both our summer programs and fall reopening. We are required to develop a comprehensive plan that meets all of the health and safety guidelines established in this and other guidance documents and submit it to DESE in August. It remains our goal for our staff and students to return to in-person instruction when classes resume in the fall, however, that is subject to change based upon how the medical situation develops.

We recognize that that there are still likely to be more questions than answers at this time, and we will continue to communicate with you in the coming weeks and months.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth McGonagle".

Liz McGonagle