COVID-19 AND PROGRAM UPDATE

With Alabama's Safer-at-Home order extended to August 31st, please continue to be vigilant and know how to protect yourself and others. Evidence shows that wearing a mask is extremely effective in slowing the spread of coronavirus. Individuals age 7 and older are required to wear a mask or other facial covering when in public and in close contact with other people, as described in the order. This amended order extends until August 31, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. Practice good hygiene, wash your hands often, and remember to keep at least 6 feet from others not in your household.

During the month of August:

For our School-based participants: With most of our school partners offering both virtual and traditional models but limiting in person activities for traditional, we will be aggressively connecting as many of our School-based volunteers with your Littles as possible and are seeking the support of the school systems to quickly identify which of our Littles have returned versus those who have not. These truly are unprecedented times but keeping our kids connected to you, our amazing and dedicated volunteers is our number one priority. The Mobile County Public School System is our largest school partner and they don’t start their entirely virtual (for the first 9 weeks) school year until September 1st, so we may not have answers until then. For our School-basedBIGs, you will be hearing from your Match Specialist and our VP of Programs Kelly Qualls soon about our plans and timeline moving forward. For those of you that took our survey, thank you! Your feedback is shaping our action steps and if you indicated a willingness to switch to our community-based program, you can anticipate hearing from Ian on our team in the coming weeks.

For our Community-based participants: You have the option of continuing to communicate virtually or signing our waiver to carefully resume in person activities (both the Big and Parent/Guardian must sign the waiver to resume in person activities). We developed our guidelines with your suggestions and concerns along with state and local guidance. We are here to help you and respect the individual needs of each match. Please keep in mind your family and their well-being when determining if in person activity is in your Little’s best interest. As always, reach out to your Match Specialist with any questions or concerns.

We will continue our remote operations – processing youth in need of a mentor, interviewing volunteers, conducting orientations via Zoom, and supporting current mentors who are vital to kids who are in need of a caring, adult mentor.

We’ll continue serving as a hub for hundreds of families – providing resources for those who have been significantly affected by loss of income, food insecurity, lack of healthcare, and anxiety due to the uncertainties related to COVID-19. We will continue our Big Neighbors program.

We plan to maintain our commitment to a virtual platform for match engagement moving forward so it remains an option for participants in both programs.

If you have any questions, please reach out to your Match Specialist.