



March 12, 2020

Dear Board and Policy Council Members:

As you may be aware, state officials have announced that there are known exposures of Coronavirus, or COVID-19, in the State of Delaware. While these individuals are affiliated with the University of Delaware, they have no direct connection to New Directions Early Head Start (NDEHS).

The health and safety of NDEHS participants and staff is our highest priority. We are monitoring this developing situation carefully. Out of an abundance of caution, we are cancelling home visits and socializations for the rest of the week. In light of this evolving situation we are also cancelling the annual conference scheduled for March 20th. As we learn more, we will make a decision about the upcoming Board and Policy Council meeting on March 24th.

Home Visitors and Family Support Specialists and our partner agencies have been taking the utmost care to follow our health and safety policies to keep children, families, staff and themselves healthy, long before this recent announcement.

We are following the recommendations from the Delaware Department of Public Health <https://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/epi/2019novelcoronavirus.html> and the CDC <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/summary.html>.

To get the most current and reliable information from the University visit: udel.edu/coronavirus.

We will continue to promote healthy behaviors of our staff and families, including hand washing, health monitoring and social distancing, as we continue to monitor the situation.

Here are some things you can do to avoid spreading germs:

- If you are not feeling well stay home.
- Wash hands thoroughly and frequently using soap and water, and scrub for 20 seconds. This is about the time it takes to sing "Happy Birthday" twice.
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow and teach your child how.
- More tips on preventive measures can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html>

I realize you may have questions. Please bring your questions and concerns to me at 302-831-0584 or hlbeck@udel.edu.

Sincerely,

Heidi L. Beck
Director