



Dear ABCD Family,

During this unprecedented public health emergency caused by the threat of the Coronavirus – Covid-19 – the safety and well-being of you and your families have been top of mind.

This crisis came on strong and fast. And ABCD has had to react quickly to meet the health risks that escalate daily. That's why I decided to urge those of you who can do your job from home to do so. And this week, Governor Baker made that mandatory.

He also issued an emergency order requiring all businesses and organizations that do not provide Covid-19 essential services to close until April 7th.

Considering that we serve the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people in Greater Boston – children, elders, hard-working individuals, and families – we do provide essential services. In fact, at times, we provide life-saving services.

So, although we've closed our Head Start Centers and our Neighborhood Sites, we are still fulfilling our mission to meet emergency needs and offer limited critical services by phone and email.

We can meet these urgent needs thanks to those of you who perform essential services at the front lines including food distribution, as well as support from departments including IT, Finance, the Mail Room, and the Waltham Suites Motel, where we ensure that folks who are homeless have a roof over their heads.

Every one of you has stepped up in your own way to make sure that ABCD continues to fulfill its mission, and your dedication is remarkable. When we emerge from this crisis, along with having met the urgent needs of our community, you will have been part of bringing the economy back. And that is particularly important to lower income families, individuals, elders and people with disabilities.

A simple thanks is not enough.

What I can offer you is the promise that you won't miss a paycheck, and you'll have our full support if you become ill.

I can't promise you that more changes won't happen. None of us knows what the future holds. But the ABCD family has been my family since 1966 when I became a Head Start parent, and

every day since, I've been proud to be part of this community. Today, I continue to be honored to work with you and to ensure that we support you in this time of crisis.

Together, we will continue to serve the Boston and Mystic Valley communities in any way we can because we are strong, determined and nimble. I look forward to when we can all meet and talk about how ABCD persevered yet again.

Please take care of yourselves and each other. Thank you.

My best,

John Drew