



Dear valued community,

As we attempt to adjust and respond to the COVID-19 outbreak, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Franklin County has made some decisions regarding events and programming that we need to share with you. The safety and well-being of our youth, families, staff and partners is always number one for us, but we also feel we have a greater social responsibility to the larger community. We need to protect our first responders, medical providers and local health care system as a whole by doing our part to contain the spread of this virus to ensure the safety of everyone, not just those directly affected by Covid-19. The following decisions have been made, effective immediately:

Enrollment

We have modified our enrollment practices to eliminate in person interviews until further notice. We will communicate these changes to you on an individual basis once your inquiry has been submitted.

Senior Center Site Based Program

This program is cancelled until further notice. We ask that these matches not meet in person at this time. Your case manager will be in weekly contact with you and your little's families to discuss alternative ways to stay connected and will notify you when this program resumes.

Deerfield Academy and Northfield Mount Hermon Site Based Programs

These programs are on hold until further notice. We are in close communication with both schools and are awaiting internal decisions for the return of students to campus. While we know there will be a break in our programming at these sites, we do not have specifics at this time. Your case manager will be in contact with everyone prior to March 27th with the finalized plan. Please keep an eye out for these communications.

Community Based Matches

While we are not restricting these meetings, we do ask that matches be mindful of the activities they are choosing to do together. Until further notice please avoid public spaces with large groups and events while together, and be mindful of hand hygiene and best practices. We suggest outings that are outside or based in smaller, less public areas. If you need activity suggestions please contact your case manager, we'd love to help walk you through this. You will be receiving further individual communication from us soon.

Bowl For Kids' Sake Event on March 27th and 28th

This event has been **rescheduled as a ONE DAY EVENT ON MAY 2nd** at the French King Bowling Center in Erving. More details to come. Please watch our social media and website for the most up to date information on this rescheduled event.

We appreciate your understanding and support and know this is a time of stress for everyone. We are here for you, whether that be from our office or our remote working locations, and welcome you to reach out. In times like these I am reminded of a Mr. Fred Rogers quote. "Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping". And remember, we are here to help.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Webster".

Jennifer Webster
Executive Director