

November 25, 2020

As you are aware we are witnessing a remarkable increase in the spread of Covid-19 in our communities, both within Virginia and beyond. We have made every effort to mitigate the risk of contagion in our day school program, but at this time we feel that there is no other safe alternative than to **return to distance-only learning for day students on a temporary basis.**

Effective today we will not offer in-person learning at any of our day school programs until January 4 at the earliest. Essentially we are going to take the next three weeks to assess the situation as it develops and develop plans for a safe restart of our in-person learning opportunities. We will have the holiday break from December 22nd (or 23rd depending upon location) through January 3rd as planned in our education calendar. **We will notify you by December 28 at the latest about our plans to restart in-person learning.**

Grafton staff have continued to excel during this crisis – we have had no outbreaks within Grafton to date. We are not willing to take undo risks with our students or staff, and indeed recent studies indicate that those with intellectual disability may be at higher risk from Covid-19. This temporary break in in-person education services will help us prevent mixing of student populations from various localities, while we assess the trends in disease spread.

We know you are concerned about both safety and education for your student. We will resume distance-learning services beginning on Monday with renewed resolve to continue to move them forward in their learning. Please feel free to contact your assigned case manager, the Executive Director of your child's day school, or me at communications@grafton.org with any questions or concerns you may have. These are difficult days, but we continue to work toward slowing the spread of COVID-19 and a return to more normal times.

Sincerely,



James Stewart, Chief Executive Officer

Grafton Integrated Health Network