



ABC of NC

April 29, 2020

Greetings,

We hope this message finds you and your families safe and healthy. Now that our state and Federal governments have provided guidance on a three-phased* approach to re-opening, I write to share ABC of NC's plan for gradually and safely returning to our previous service models. We plan to follow Governor Cooper's policies regarding movement through the phases, which are based on meeting specific criteria across the state. There is always the possibility that once we have moved into an advanced phase, if the virus were to have a resurgence, we could move back to a more restrictive phase. Further, our plan is subject to change as additional guidance comes forth from officials, noting that local laws/pronouncements may eclipse the state directives.

WHEN

We will initiate Phase 1 as soon as the Governor gives the okay. Our governments say we need to meet four key metrics* for Phase 1 to begin, and as of today, we have met only two of those. The good news is that we are trending in a positive direction for all four metrics. We will move on to Phases 2 and 3 at the direction of our government leaders. We understand that this could take some time, but believe it is our responsibility to make safe decisions for our clients, staff, and community.

HOW

Throughout all phases, we will have increased sanitation, symptom and temperature checks, increased social distancing, and increased use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), all as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) or other officials.

Phase 1

- Distance learning continues for school and preschool programs
- ABA therapy services delivered in-home with only one assigned staff member per client. Clients who have written documentation from a doctor that the child is medically fragile/high risk may continue to receive telehealth services.
- Counseling services will be delivered via telehealth

Phase 2

- Distance learning continues for school and preschool programs (while some schools may reopen during this phase, ABC of NC is taking a more conservative approach since our clients may have difficulty meeting the social distancing guidelines)
- ABA therapy services delivered in the clinic with a limited number of staff per client. Clients who have written documentation from a doctor that the child is medically fragile/high risk may continue to receive in-home or telehealth services.
- Counseling services will be delivered in clinic or via telehealth

Phase 3

- School and preschool programs reopen. Clients who have written documentation from a doctor that the child is medically fragile/high risk may continue to receive educational services via distance learning.
- ABA therapy services delivered in the clinic. Clients who have written documentation from a doctor that the child is medically fragile/high risk may continue to receive in-home or telehealth services.
- Counseling services will be delivered in clinic or via telehealth

We are cautiously optimistic as we edge towards the re-opening phases. We miss our clients, and we miss each other. We can't wait to see all of you once it is safe and responsible to do so!

Sincerely,

Selene Johnson, M.Ed., BCBA
Executive Director

*ABC of NC is using the following guidance for our phased approach:

- <https://www.whitehouse.gov/openingamerica/#phase-one>
- <https://governor.nc.gov/news/governor-extends-stay-home-order-through-may-8-plans-three-phase-lifting-restrictions-based>