



July 23, 2020

Greetings ABC of NC families,

I hope this message finds you healthy and safe as our community continues to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. I am writing to share the current plan for reopening the Education Center for in-person learning and an update on the delivery of ABA therapy and counseling services.

*Please note: these plans are subject to change based on updated government mandates and/or if conditions necessitate a change.*

### School and Preschool Students

- In-person learning will resume on **Monday, August 17**, for all students who receive two or more hours per day of school services. For those who receive less than two hours per day of school instruction, instruction will continue via distance learning until social distancing guidelines lessen.
- Any family who wishes to continue educational services via distance learning is welcome to participate via that modality until they are comfortable sending their child back for in-person learning. Please notify [LeighEllen.Spencer@abcofnc.org](mailto:LeighEllen.Spencer@abcofnc.org) by **Friday, July 31**, if you wish to continue with distance learning.
- At this time, NC remains in Phase 2 and we anticipate an update from Governor Cooper during the week of August 3. The in-person learning schedule for **August 17** will be determined by which Phase North Carolina is in per the Governor's orders. After the Governor's announcement, we will follow-up with our finalized plan. Below is ABC of NC's Phase plan for learning:
  - **A Day/B Day (Phase 2)**
    - ABC of NC's Education Center will operate on a modified in-person schedule, with students attending on an A or B day schedule.
    - A-day students will attend in-person on Mondays and Tuesdays and will access distance learning Wednesday through Friday. B-day students will access distance learning on Monday through Wednesday and will participate in in-person on Thursdays and Fridays. Wednesdays will be distance learning for all students to allow for rigorous classroom cleaning/disinfecting and to increase the time between groups of students making contact with shared staff.
    - Your child's individualized distance learning plan will be implemented on the days your child is scheduled for distance learning.
    - For those who receive less than two hours per day of school instruction, instruction will continue via distance learning until social distancing guidelines lessen.
    - We will contact you as soon as possible to let you know your child's weekly schedule.
  - **Regular Schedule (Phase 3)**
    - ABC of NC's Education Center will operate on a regular, every day in-person schedule.
    - For those who receive less than two hours per day of school instruction combined, instruction will continue via distance learning until social distancing guidelines lessen.
  - **Shifts to Distance Learning, When Necessary**
    - There may be occasions when, regardless of the family's preference, 100% distance learning is required, such as:
      - If a student must quarantine in response to exposure to a positive case of COVID-19
      - If a student must isolate due to diagnosis of COVID-19 or symptoms of COVID-19
      - If community pandemic conditions warrant 100% distance learning for the safety of students and staff



- As previously communicated, we will continue to implement all safety precautions, including limited staffing/teaming per client, to minimize the number of staff working with each client. By limiting contact, if a positive COVID-19 case is identified, this will minimize exposure, be more manageable to trace, and will limit the number of people that will need to quarantine. *Client therapy hours may be reduced to ensure limited staffing/teaming per client.*
- Enhanced sanitization and cleaning measures remain in place based on recommendations from the CDC.
- If your child is sent home due to any of the criteria in our health checks, the guidelines from the NC Department of Health and Human Services must be met before returning to on-campus services (See *Attachment 2*).
- Family/caregiver training will continue to be delivered via telehealth to limit contact.  
*\*Please note that some insurance plans may not cover telehealth, so we will need to check benefits eligibility.*

### **Counseling Services**

- Counseling Services may be delivered in-person or via telehealth, depending on staff availability, beginning **August 17**.  
*\*Please note that some insurance plans may not cover telehealth, so we will need to check benefits eligibility for families who wish to choose a telehealth option.*

### **Speech Services**

- The SpeechCenter has resumed some in-person services for ABC of NC clients. Please contact them directly regarding your child's services.

### **ImprintsCares**

- ImprintsCares is working to finalize their plans regarding collaborative services they offer at ABC of NC. We will share an update as soon as we have an updated plan from them.

### **Restricted Visits to Campus**

- Parent/caregiver classes and ABC of NC tours/information sessions will continue to be delivered virtually through Zoom. You can register at: <https://abcofnc.org/involved/calendar/>.
- Non-essential volunteer/intern posts remain suspended.

The team at ABC of NC is committed to doing everything we can to ensure that we are following guidelines to keep our clients, their families, and our staff safe and healthy. In addition to monitoring CDC and DHHS guidelines, three ABC of NC staff members also participated in a six-hour COVID-19 safety course offered by Johns Hopkins University to help guide our safety processes and contact tracing policies and procedures.

Thank you for your understanding and flexibility as we continue to navigate this ever-changing situation. The team at ABC of NC is excited to see our clients back at school! We've missed you!!!

Hoping that you and your families continue to be well!

Sincerely,  
Selene Johnson, M.Ed., BCBA  
Executive Director