

March 16, 2020

Dear DDDC and RCAAS staff,

I realize that we are currently experiencing an unprecedented amount of uncertainty in the midst of this complex COVID-19 situation. Circumstances are rapidly changing, and our next steps and options are not always clear.

I want to reiterate that the concerns and needs of our staff and the families we serve are at the forefront of our minds. While at a University and working with the public school systems, we can recognize that remote instruction presents its share of challenges. However, I believe I can speak for all of us when I say that the type of support and instruction we provide to our students and clients is not easy to conceptualize and deliver as a remote service and presents very unique challenges. Although our work is not necessarily viewed as essential clinical care the way medical services are, we know the critical importance of what we do.

I have been working closely with Dean Conway, Cat Francis, and Chris Manente throughout the weekend and all day today to filter the incoming information and seek guidance from the university leadership and all constituents involved in the work we do, including the NJDDD and NJDOE. We all share a commitment to determining the best course of action at every step along the way for our clients, their families, and our staff. We are doing everything possible to ensure the health and safety of clients and staff, meet our legal and ethical obligations, provide essential and meaningful services, and protect the livelihood of our amazing employees.

Please know that as additional guidance in forthcoming and we are able to make decisions, that we will communicate information as rapidly and responsibly as possible.



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