

July 20, 2020

Dear DDDC Families,

Several you have posed specific questions related to our safety plan and the factors which have impacted our delay. I hope the following information can help address some of these questions.

**Why does the DDDC need N95 masks?**

*N95 respirator masks are a required component of the DDDC's approved COVID safety plan. This safety requirement is in effect due to the fact that our students will be unable to consistently practice social distancing from staff or other students, and most will not wear any type of face covering. In addition, certain types of student vocalizations or behaviors may increase situational risk or airborne droplets. Our plan is designed to protect the health and safety of the students of the DDDC and the members of their households, as well as the staff who work with DDDC students and the members of their households.*

**What is being done to prepare and obtain these masks or other safety items?**

*Acquiring approved N95 masks requires medical clearance and professional fit testing which has been underway for several weeks. There are universal supply shortages for the brands, models and sizes of N95 masks with the most appropriate ratings and fit test pass rates, given that suppliers prioritize and reroute inventory to hospitals in response to public health mandates. We have not yet been able to achieve a sufficient level of fit test pass rate with the models of N95 we have obtained so far.*

**Are any other options for in-person services being considered?**

*Throughout the full duration of remote operations, we have explored several options for returning to in person services, in addition to our current plan. We will continue to do so and remain as flexible as possible under the guidance of the NJ Department of Education regulations, as well as in consideration of all medical and safety requirements that are applicable to us as part of the Rutgers University community.*

My thoughts are with your families during this time. We are eager to bring everyone back to campus safely as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Lara Delmolino, Ph.D.  
Executive Director, DDDC