

March 13, 2020

Dear Valued Stepping Stone School Families:

We appreciate your ongoing partnership with Stepping Stone school as we navigate the COVID-19 issues together. As a school community, we remain vigilant and proactive in taking the appropriate actions and precautions to safeguard the health and welfare of our school community, while still maintaining as much educational continuity and consistent routine as possible for our students.

I wanted to update all of you regarding continued and additional steps that Stepping Stone School is taking. Also, please review my letters of February 27th and March 10th for previous information provided to families.

AUSTIN, TX:

1710 Richcreek Rd. 78757
8419 Bowling Green Dr. 78757
8121 Shoal Creek Blvd. 78757
6616 McNeil Dr. 78729
9914 Woodland Village Dr. 78750
12301 Hymeadow Dr. 78750
7700 West Parmer Ln. 78729
2001 Wells Branch Pkwy. 78728
1007 E. 40th St. 78751
9405 Brodie Ln. 78748
9325 Alice Mae Ln. 78748
3811 Harmon Ave. 78751

LEANDER, TX:

225 Block House Dr. 78641

KYLE, TX:

4624 Ratcliffe Dr. 78640
1020 Lightfoot St. 78640

ROUND ROCK, TX:

7601 O'Connor Dr. 78681
2301 N. A.W. Grimes Blvd. 78665
651 Teravista Pkwy. 78665

COLLEGE STATION, TX:

900 University Oaks Blvd. 77840
205 Rock Prairie Rd. 77845

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE:

1910 Justin Ln. 78757
(512) 459-0258
Fax (512) 467-1824

- As of Monday, March 16th, all of our playground equipment will be sanitized with disinfectant at the end of the day and air dried overnight. This service will take place nightly by our cleaning company Shining Image.
- Our cleaning company also uses vacuums with HEPA (High-Efficiency Particulate Air) filters, which filter out airborne particles. These same HEPA filters are used in many hospitals to enhance air quality within this environment.
- Out of an abundance of caution, we are cancelling the field trip to the movies that had been planned for Spring Break next week for our school age children. The children will still visit *The Atelier*[™] which is located at our Lakeline campus.
- Beginning immediately, all school age children being picked up by Stepping Stone School at elementary schools will have their hands washed at school, and then sanitized before they enter our vans. Once they enter Stepping Stone School, they will wash their hands again, adhering to the CDC guidelines.
- The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services requires that all licensed early care and education programs do a wellness check of every child when they arrive at school. These checks take place at every Stepping Stone School daily. Should any child or staff member exhibit the symptoms of COVID-19, they will be immediately separated and sent home to consult with a doctor.
- We will continue to require all students and staff to be fever free (temperature taken with an oral thermometer) for 24 hours without taking medication, before they may return to Stepping Stone School. Of course, if a student or employee are suspected of having COVID-19 and have been advised by their physicians to be quarantined, they will not be allowed to return to the school without clearance from local health officials.
- Should we be required to close a school due to COVID-19, we will strictly follow all local health department requirements and guidelines and provide continued updates to our families.
- A **Safety Council** has been formed within Stepping Stone School which consists of top administrators, local medical professionals and advisors from the Early Care and Education Consortium (ECEC) out of Washington, D.C. who are receiving continuous updates from the CDC and passing them onto us.
- We have created a webpage on the Stepping Stone School website which will contain all of our updates and additional resources. The link to that webpage is: <https://www.steppingstoneschool.com/proactive-protection-plan/>

Below is the link to the **CDC Interim Guidance for Administrators of US Childcare Programs**. We will be strictly adhering to these guidelines and will also follow any additional guidance provided by the local Health Departments.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-schools.html>

As the CDC handout specifies, “The majority of respiratory illnesses are not COVID-19. If a community (or more specifically, a school) has cases of COVID-19, local health officials will help identify those individuals and will follow up on next steps.”

We are monitoring the situation throughout the day, every day and will provide additional updates as warranted.

We will continue to operate in a calm, orderly and safe manner, befitting an organization that has provided vital educational and early care services to the families of Austin for over 40 years.

We are extremely grateful for the support of our families and staff as we work together to make sure we are following best practices to maintain a healthy and safe community.

Sincerely,



Rhonda Paver, M.A.

Owner and Executive Director

AUSTIN, TX:

1710 Richcreek Rd. 78757
8419 Bowling Green Dr. 78757
8121 Shoal Creek Blvd. 78757
6616 McNeil Dr. 78729
9914 Woodland Village Dr. 78750
12301 Hymeadow Dr. 78750
7700 West Parmer Ln. 78729
2001 Wells Branch Pkwy. 78728
1007 E. 40th St. 78751
9405 Brodie Ln. 78748
9325 Alice Mae Ln. 78748
3811 Harmon Ave. 78751

LEANDER, TX:

225 Block House Dr. 78641

KYLE, TX:

4624 Ratcliffe Dr. 78640
1020 Lightfoot St. 78640

ROUND ROCK, TX:

7601 O'Connor Dr. 78681
2301 N. A.W. Grimes Blvd. 78665
651 Teravista Pkwy. 78665

COLLEGE STATION, TX:

900 University Oaks Blvd. 77840
205 Rock Prairie Rd. 77845

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE:

1910 Justin Ln. 78757
(512) 459-0258
Fax (512) 467-1824