

Dear Bigs and Parents,

Thank you for your continued patience during the recent stay at home orders. Your creativity in maintaining your mentoring relationships over the past weeks has been inspiring! As always, the health and safety of our Bigs, Littles, families, and staff remains our top priority, and we appreciate your willingness to participate in our program "from a distance."

[Governor Bullock issued guidance](#) on Wednesday regarding the phased reopening of Montana. In view of this guidance, we will be easing our current in-person match activity restriction in the coming weeks.

In-person match activities will remain prohibited until **Monday, May 4th**, at which point matches may then choose to meet in person as long as they review and follow the guidance for individuals provided by the Governor:

- *ALL VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS should continue to follow the stay home guidance. Members of households with vulnerable residents should be aware that by returning to work or other environments where distancing is not practical, they could carry the virus back home. Precautions should be taken to isolate from vulnerable residents.*
- *Vulnerable Individuals: people over 65 years of age and/or those with serious underlying health conditions, including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and those whose immune system is compromised such as by chemotherapy for cancer and other conditions requiring such therapy.*
- *All individuals (non household), WHEN IN PUBLIC (e.g., parks, outdoor recreation areas, shopping areas), should maximize physical distance from others.*
- *Avoid GATHERING in groups of more than 10 people in circumstances that do not readily allow for appropriate physical distancing.*
- *MINIMIZE NON ESSENTIAL TRAVEL and adhere to Montana guidelines regarding quarantine.*

Additionally, matches should continue to practice good hygiene:

- *Wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer, especially after touching frequently used items or surfaces.*
- *Avoid touching your face.*
- *Sneeze or cough into a tissue, or the inside of your elbow.*
- *Disinfect frequently used items and surfaces as much as possible.*
- *Strongly consider using non medical face coverings while in public, especially in circumstances that do not readily allow for appropriate physical distancing (grocery/retail stores, pharmacies, public transportation, etc.).*

We would like for you to be as comfortable as possible and make activity decisions based on your personal circumstances. If you are or someone in your household is a "Vulnerable Individual" we advise against resuming in-person activities.

If you choose to meet in person, we suggest getting outside for walks or hikes to maintain some distance from each other and others. If Bigs transport their Littles, please be especially cognizant of the hygiene tips above and disinfect your vehicles as well as you can.

Again, in-person activities are still prohibited until Monday, May 4th. Thank you again for your patience through all of this! If you have questions, please contact your Match Support Specialist.