Good Afternoon Prime Time Families,

Happy New Year!

I hope this message finds you and your family doing well in the midst of yet another Covid-19 surge across our nation.

“The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) estimates the proportion of Omicron cases in our state is 88.5% for the week ending December 25. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates the proportion of Omicron in the Health and Human Services Region 6 (which includes Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas) is 86.7%. Furthermore, 95% of [Louisiana] parishes are at the 2 highest levels of community transmission.” (LDH: 12/29/2021)

With the overall upward Covid-19 surge in Louisiana, the number of staff who have recently tested positive for Covid-19, the number of staff currently quarantined due to direct exposure with positive Covid-19 cases, and with guidance from our medical consultant, Yanti Turang, Prime Time Head Start/Early Head Start in Ouachita and Acadiana is extending its winter break for all students until January 11, 2022. On January 12, 2022 students will begin virtual/remote services, with plans to resume on-site services February 2, 2022.

Later this week, details will go out via Robo-text regarding virtual/remote services and schedules for technology pick-ups. In addition, we will host a family informational session that will take place on January 10, 2022 with our medical consultant, Yanti Turang. During this session, further updates and recommendations will be presented. A meeting invitation for this session will go out to you later this week via Robo-text. All Robo-text messaging will come from phone number: 844-556-0226.

We apologize for the inconvenience the winter break extension and short-term change of service delivery will cause you and your family. Please know that the health and safety of our students and staff are of utmost importance to us.

We ask that you continue to follow the CDC recommendations to help prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses such as the common cold, flu, and COVID-19:

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

Stay home when you are sick and remain home until fever-free for 24 hours without fever- reducing medication.

Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Below are links you may find useful during this time:

SNAP: http://www.dcfslouisiana.gov/page/get-snap

Mental Health and Substance Abuse/Misuse Counseling: Call the Keep Calm Through COVID Hotline at 1-866-310-7977 any time, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. All
calls are confidential and free of charge.

Positive Parenting Tips: https://www.webmd.com/parenting/default.htm

United Way of NELA Local/State Resources: Dial 2-1-1

United Way of Acadiana: Dial 232-HELP

24 hours a day, seven days a week to reach a live 2-1-1 specialist or text the keyword LACOVID to 898-211 to have instant access to the most current information available in our state


LA Dept of Health: http://ldh.la.gov/index.cfm/page/3835

We thank you all for your flexibility and commitment to Prime Time Head Start/Early Head Start during this challenging time for our community, nation, and the world.

Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions, concerns, ideas, and recommendations you may have.

Thank you so very much for your partnership. Please be safe!

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Stalanda Butcher
Vice President of Head Start Services
Prime Time, Inc.