



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
**DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY SERVICES**

March 26, 2020

Dear DDS Community:

On March 24, 2020, to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19), Mayor Muriel Bowser issued [Mayor's Order 2020-053: Closure of Non-Essential Businesses and Prohibition on Large Gatherings During Public Health Emergency for the 2019 Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#). The Order requires temporary closure of the on-site operation of all non-essential businesses, and prohibits gatherings of 10 or more people. In providing background for the order, the Mayor cited the importance of limiting interactions among people to the greatest extent practicable by limiting public activity. As of March 20, 2020, public schools in DC will continue Distance Learning through Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, based on guidance from DC Health. In the District, Mayor Bowser will make decisions regarding school closures in close partnership with DC Health and DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency. To this end, **Department on Disability Services (DDS) has extended the suspension of all student Work-Based Learning Experiences (WBLEs) / Internship Programs, through Saturday, April 25, 2020.**

During this unprecedented public health emergency, DDS remains committed to ensuring the well-being of the individuals we serve, including students and staff within school communities. This is a part of our ongoing efforts to address community health risks, and ensure the safety of students whom participate in WBLE programs. The District Government is closely monitoring the situation and will advise school communities if anything changes. Regular updates will be shared with students and families, and posted on the DDS website. For additional information regarding school closures, please visit the following websites:

**DC Public Schools:** <https://dcps.dc.gov/coronavirus>

**DC Public Charter Schools:** <https://dcpcsb.org/coronavirus-what-you-should-know>

**DC Health Resources for Families**

Many resources, including information about how to protect yourself and your family, free meal programs, and FAQs for kids and families are available on [www.coronavirus.dc.gov](http://www.coronavirus.dc.gov).

We recognize the significant impact the suspension of student Work-Based Learning Experiences will have on our students and families. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns at [Yufanyi.Nshom2@dc.gov](mailto:Yufanyi.Nshom2@dc.gov) or 202-285-5432.

All the best,

*Y.Nshom*

Ms. Yufanyi Nshom  
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Department on Disability Services

