March 24, 2020

Dear DCIU:

We hope you and your family are well, safe, and beginning to adjust to the ever-changing developments we are all experiencing each day. On March 23, 2020, the Governor extended his order to close all schools through at least April 9 and issued a stay-at-home order for seven counties including Delaware County, as our county is one of the most significantly impacted by the coronavirus (COVID-19). During the shutdown period, DCIU will be closed with very limited access to our facilities and schools. We continue to closely monitor this evolving situation and remain hopeful that this order may be lifted, and programs and services may resume in full after the spring recess on, or around, April 13, 2020.

This past week, staff have been developing plans for our programs to offer enrichment, review activities, or flexible learning opportunities. As DCIU offers an array of programs and services, plans are being customized to meet the varying needs of the organization and the populations we serve. Your supervisors are in the process of reaching out to you to share plans, ideas, and seek your assistance to ensure the DCIU can offer some services during our closure.

I expect you have many questions. These are unchartered and unprecedented times with guidance being fluid and ever evolving. This week, legislators are seeking to take action on legislation that should provide some relief for schools. PDE continues to expand its Common Answers to Questions during the closures due to COVID-19. These can be found on www.education.pa.gov. DCIU awaits additional guidance from the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE), the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), and the Office of Head Start that might impact the programs we offer. I appreciate your understanding that specific details are not immediately available but will be forthcoming - hopefully over the next several weeks.

It is important to remember this is a fluid and ever-changing situation. Together, we can navigate these challenging times. On behalf of the DCIU Board of Directors and administration, thank you for your patience and unwavering commitment to our children, families, and the DCIU. Please be safe and take of your family and you!

Sincerely,

Dr. Maria Edelberg
Executive Director