



APRIL 13, 2020

Re: **UPDATED** Gov. Bill Lee Executive Order 23–Tennessee Shelter-In-Place Order

Dear parents and colleagues,

Late in the afternoon on April 2nd, Governor Bill Lee issued a “shelter-in-place” order that goes into effect immediately and will last through **April 30th (UPDATED)**. The order directs all citizens of the State of Tennessee to shelter at home except when engaging in essential activities as defined by the order.

UPDATED: On April 13th, the Governor announced the extension of the “shelter-in-place” provision of his executive order. The executive order is now set to expire on April 30th.

We understand that this executive order adds a new layer of uncertainty to this already challenging situation. Thank you for your continued trust and confidence as we navigate this new normal.

Autism ETC has confirmed with multiple city and county officials that ABA therapy is an essential activity under every published definition from the CDC and local and state governments. The guidelines for the State of Tennessee were released with the “Safer-at-home” order from Governor Lee’s office issued on March 30th. Further, under the Code Yellow procedure, Autism ETC has discontinued all group activities, and is practicing social distancing in all therapy-related activities. **Autism ETC remains in compliance with all local, state, and federal guidelines regarding COVID-19 and will remain open.**

Our first priority remains the safety of our clients, families, and staff. Our services are strictly optional for our current families, and our staff is being advised to use their own careful discretion when deciding to continue working. Neither clients nor staff will receive repercussions for the decision to discontinue services with Autism ETC for the foreseeable future. We are working diligently to fully support both our staff and our clients through the crisis.

Though our clinics will continue operations, we will remain hyper-vigilant for signs of sickness among our staff and clients, and we will continue our increased sanitation and isolation measures. We will monitor the situation closely as it evolves, and we are ready to take additional action should it become necessary. To learn more about the steps Autism ETC has already taken to combat the spread of the virus, please visit our website.

As always, we encourage you join Autism ETC in taking all necessary precautions to prevent spread of this virus. Washing your hands and avoiding contact when sick is the best way to prevent the spread of disease.

Sincerely,

Autism ETC Clinical Management Team

