



OCTOBER 1, 2020

Re: Relaxing Code Blue

Dear parents and colleagues:

On July 1, Autism ETC entered "Code Blue" whereby we suspended all group work activities to reduce the chance of an outbreak resulting from COVID-19. While we believe these measures were necessary given the increased severity of the virus, we also believe there has been a significant learning loss resulting from the isolation measures.

Yesterday, on September 30, Governor Bill Lee issued an executive order to end many of the COVID-19-related restrictions on businesses and gatherings across the state. At the same time, Nashville Mayor Jim Cooper will allow that city to enter its third phase of reopening. In response to these actions, **Autism ETC will implement a modified group work program beginning Monday, October 5.** The provisions of this modified plan are outlined below.

In the Classroom:

- Tables and chairs spread as much as possible
- Sanitation wipes, sprays, and hand gels available
- No close-contact activities or "circle time"
- No swapping tables or rotating seats
- Tables and chairs sanitized after use
- Entire room sanitized by teacher between classes

At Lunch:

- Tables and seats spread as much as possible
- Sanitation wipes, sprays, and hand gels available
- No open seating
- Clients will only eat lunch with clients from their same class
- Daily deep clean of eating areas by staff

During Social Skills:

- Sanitation wipes, sprays, and hand gels available
- No intermingling of different classes or social groups allowed
- Social distancing enforced to highest possible degree

We understand the threat COVID-19 is far from over. However, we believe the threat to your child's social skills acquisition is also significant. If you have questions or concerns regarding this new format, please contact your child's BCBA immediately. We will make every attempt to work with you to insure the best accommodation for your child.

As always, we are monitoring ongoing events and data *very* closely, and we will update our policies and procedures as the situation requires. Thank you for your ongoing confidence as we face these challenges together. Please partner with us to contain COVID-19 in our clinics by following all CDC guidance in your daily lives. We must all work together to slow the spread of disease.

Guidance can be found online on the CDC's website (**[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)**), and our latest guidance can be found on our website (**[autismetc.com/covid-19](https://www.autismetc.com/covid-19)**).

Sincerely,

Autism ETC Clinical Management Team

