

All LVM In-Person Activities Suspended Until Further Notice

1 message

Literacy Volunteers of Massachusetts <litvolma@aol.com>

Tue, Jan 12, 2021 at 8:59 AM

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LITERACY VOLUNTEERS
of MASSACHUSETTS

All LVM In-Person Activities Remain Suspended Until Further Notice

Dear LVM Community,

We hope that you, your student and your families are continuing to stay healthy and safe.

We are writing to update you again on LVM's policy regarding re-opening services.

Our overriding concern during the pandemic continues to be to protect the well-being of our students, volunteers and staff. As important as tutoring is, we must make decisions that consider everyone's safety, and our collective responsibility to help contain the virus and its threat to public health.

Despite the fact that a vaccine is now available on a limited basis, there continue to be surges. Governor Baker and other municipal officials have reinstated restrictions.

After careful consideration of all available information, LVM is extending its suspension of all in-person activities (e.g., tutoring, social meetings, group meetings, group instruction or gatherings of any kind) for the foreseeable future and until further notice. We will continue to monitor and reevaluate the situation.

We understand that not tutoring in-person is a real personal loss for many of you and, at best, is a significant change. We are delighted to see so many hundreds of our tutors tutoring remotely, embracing new teaching methods that they've never used before, having fun, and letting their students see them learn new skills. We are grateful to everyone for being open to dealing with these challenges.

If you have not yet transitioned to tutoring remotely, we urge you to do so and seek guidance from the LVM program coordinator if you have questions. Every LVM program coordinator is doing their utmost to support you individually and through Zoom workshops, tutor chats, remote office hours, and remote social gatherings. They are doing an excellent job identifying the best instructional resources and online tools for you to use. They are reaching out to you in many ways and always want to hear from you if you have a suggestion or need assistance.

Please remember that tutoring remotely does not mean only using Zoom and online software. Many of the LVM tutors are using regular mail, telephone, email, and texting as their instructional vehicles whether or not they are also using other online tools.

If you haven't had a chance to check out some of the online instructional software, please do -- you'll be energized by the depth and quality of the online lessons which make your tutoring easier. Many tutors have said they will continue to use these tools even after in-person tutoring resumes.

Please also remember that, during this time, you are an essential community connection for your student who may be struggling, be more fearful, and feel more isolated. Navigating this crisis is an ordeal for all of us, and it is much worse for our students. Our students need their tutors now more than ever. If you are not able to tutor right now, please do your best to stay in touch with your student regularly and ask how they are doing.

Please let your program coordinator know if you have any concerns about your student's physical or mental health during this time.

As always, thank you for all that you do to tutor and support your student. We deeply appreciate your dedication and compassion, especially during these difficult times.

Please be well and stay safe,



Roberta Soolman
LVM Executive Director
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Resources

Up-to-date COVID-19 information from the CDC:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

New eviction advisory from Attorney General Maura Healey as of 1/7/21

[Evictions - Know Your Rights](#)

[Evictions -- Know Your Rights](#)

Health care, food insecurity, utility bills, COVID-19 information, unemployment:

[LVM COVID-19 Update #1 with list of resources](#)

Unemployment expansion, eviction moratorium, avoiding scams:
[LVM COVID-19 Update #2 with list of resources](#)

Crisis hotlines for counseling, domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse or endangerment:

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-updates-and-information#call-hotlines,-get-text-updates,-and-more->

Free COVID-19 counseling and support:

<https://masssupport.org/>

Taking care of your mental health in the face of uncertainty:

<https://afsp.org/story/taking-care-of-your-mental-health-in-the-face-of-uncertainty>

Managing isolation and loneliness during COVID:

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/managing-isolation-and-loneliness-during-covid-19>

Multi-lingual resources:

<https://www.miracoalition.org/resources/covid19/>

Extensive list of resources:

<https://www.boston.com/culture/local-news/2020/03/17/how-to-find-help-access-resources-impacted-by-coronavirus>

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