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## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** December 17, 2020  
**TO:** Empower Children's Academy Families  
**FROM:** Jeff Paterson, Chief Executive Officer  
**RE:** COVID-19 Updates and Guidance

As you know, the novel Coronavirus continues to spread in our community. Each of us has a special responsibility to slow and stop the spread of this deadly virus.

### **Holiday Gatherings**

New York State guidelines continue to state that no more than 10 people may attend indoor or outdoor gathering at private homes. This includes Christmas parties and other holiday celebrations. If you or your child attend a gathering of more than 10 people, we ask that you wait 14 days from the date of that gathering before sending your child back to Empower for in-person instruction. As always, if your child is showing any symptoms of COVID-19, please keep your child at home.

For information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on how to celebrate the holidays safely, please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html>.

### **Travel Advisory**

Under the state's travel guidelines, if you travel into New York State from a state other than Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts or Vermont, you are expected to take a COVID-19 test three days before returning to New York. When you arrive in New York, you must quarantine for three days. On the fourth day, you can take another test. If both tests are negative, you no longer have to quarantine. If you leave the five-state area for more than 24 hours and are not tested when you return, you must quarantine at home for 14 days. If you are out of New York for less than 24 hours, you do not have to quarantine when you return. For information, visit <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory#restricted-states>.

### **Yellow Zone Restrictions**

As of this week, Empower Children's Academy is located in one of the state's yellow zones. We plan to continue providing hybrid learning according to the current schedule. However, we could be forced to return to fully remote learning if: (1) we see a spike of infections within our preschool, (2) infection rates in our community continue to rise, or (3) the state directs us to stop in-person learning. The best way to avoid this situation is for all of us to be as cautious as possible and to follow all public health guidelines.

So, please avoid busy places, avoid groups of more than 10 people, wear masks, stay socially distant, and wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds at a time.

In addition to sending information home to you, we post occasional updates at <https://empower-wny.org/news-events/covid-19-response/>.

Thank you for the privilege of assisting you and your child. We wish you a happy and safe season!

