TEMPORARY PROGRAM CHANGES & HOW MATCHES CAN STAY CONNECTED

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro Milwaukee (BBBS) is committed to the safety and well-being of our youth, families, volunteers, staff, and community. Therefore, we will follow the guidance of public health officials during the COVID-19 outbreak.

As of Monday, March 16, BBBS has suspended program events and in-person activities for program participants. We will continue to provide match support services to our program participants from remote locations as we work to help matches stay connected.

<u>Community-based Mentoring Program</u>: Community-based matches should postpone in-person gettogethers and activities until further notice. Additionally, all scheduled REACH events have been suspended. <u>Our Match Support Specialists</u> will support our Bigs and Littles in staying connected through this challenging time and are helping Bigs think creatively about how to do so. Consider reading a book or doing homework with your Little over the phone, video chatting to catch up, connecting on previously approved social media platforms, or sending each other fun things in the mail.

Mentor2.0: There will be no monthly in-person events while schools are closed and health officials have limited social gatherings. We encourage pairs to continue communication and work through the iMentor Platform. The <u>mentor2.0 Coordinators will be in contact</u> with participants in this program to discuss modifications to the curriculum delivery.

<u>School-based Mentoring Program</u>: There will be no meetings while our partner schools are closed. Please <u>stay in communication with your School-based Coordinator</u> during this time. We encourage Bigs to consider reaching out to their Support Staff to write letters to their Littles.

BBBS Staff Support: We know stopping in-person match activities presents a challenge in your match relationship. Even though Bigs and Littles can't meet in-person right now, the Big's role as a caring adult in their Little's life is as important as ever. Your Match Support Specialist or Coordinator will help you adjust your match relationship and will provide tips and suggestions for staying connected during this time. Our BBBS staff is working remotely and are available via email or phone. We are here to help with any questions or concerns you have. In addition, our 24/7 Emergency Line (414-831-4589) continues to be available for any program participants who have an emergency. <u>Click here for staff contact info.</u>