



## CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATE

Dear Dogs for Better Lives Community,

At Dogs for Better Lives (DBL), we are committed as ever to our DBL community, and with growing concerns about the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, we want you to know that the health and safety of you and our team is our top priority.

As we monitor this evolving situation, we want to share an update on some of the ways we are protecting our DBL community.

### **Listening to the Experts**

We care about everyone's safety – including our dogs – and we are closely monitoring the situation with guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), and Assistance Dog International (ADI). We encourage you to do the same.

### **Healthy Assistance Dogs**

Currently, there is no evidence that companion animals can spread COVID-19, and further, it does not appear that companion animals become ill from this virus. We encourage all of you to read and bookmark the FAQ's posted on the [AVMA website](#) that will help you understand the [impact to Assistance Dogs](#) as it is updated regularly with the most current information.

### **Stay Healthy**

No matter where you live, it's worth repeating the CDC's advice for protecting yourself and others: Wash your hands frequently with soap and/or alcohol-based sanitizers; avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth; cover your mouth or nose when you sneeze or cough; and maintain distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing. And if you have a fever, cough, or difficulty breathing yourself, seek medical attention. Also, please follow [The President's Coronavirus Guidelines](#) to slow the spread of COVID-19 that was released today.

### **What We're Doing**

We take the safety of our staff, clients, volunteers, and visiting public very seriously and will be flexible during this challenging time. With that in mind, we are implementing initial safety precautions regarding the COVID-19 and are limiting visitors to our national campus in Central Point, OR.

At this time, we have cancelled all public tours and putting the program on temporary hold. Only those individual guests with a prearranged invite from a staff person, will be admitted on campus.

We have significantly curtailed our work-related travel locally and nationally, though knowing this is a very fluid situation, we are re-evaluating this daily and weekly in the months ahead and will make appropriate changes accordingly.

Further, we have implemented several steps internally to ensure that all are supported, should staff need assistance and/or additional support. Flex schedules, remote workplans for many, good health care for all, and transparency are just a few examples of how DBL is supporting its team.

### **We Care**

We care about you, your families, and all of our amazing dogs, and will continue to share what we know as we learn more. We ask for your patience during this challenging time as we will have fewer staff on campus and may have staff out sick. Please feel free to contact us:

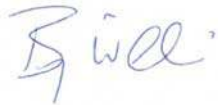
Any general questions or concerns - [info@dogsforbetterlives.org](mailto:info@dogsforbetterlives.org)

Clients should contact - [clientservices@dogsforbetterlives.org](mailto:clientservices@dogsforbetterlives.org)

Donors can contact - [dvlp@dogsforbetterlives.org](mailto:dvlp@dogsforbetterlives.org)

There is nothing more powerful and resilient than you – our wonderful DBL community – and we want to thank you for showing your love for our mission and being a part of DBL.

Stay well,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bryan Williams". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bryan Williams  
CEO, Dogs for Better Lives