**Speech-Language and Hearing Center (SLHC) Coronavirus Update**

We are writing to update you on Northeastern University’s and Center’s efforts to monitor and respond to the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19). We want to assure you that the health and safety of the community is paramount. To this end, the university remains in close communication with public health agencies and experts—including some on our own faculty—to learn from and follow their recommendations.

All Northeastern campuses remain open for business as usual, and this includes the Speech-Language and Hearing Center. It has been reported that the likelihood of being exposed to the virus in the U.S., Canada, and the U.K. remains very low. Should it become necessary to close our campus or restrict in-person contact, the university will make such a determination in consultation with the relevant public health authorities and experts.

**For clients and patients of the SLHC:**

Unless you are returning from a CDC Level 3 country or region (China, Iran, Italy or South Korea) within the last 14 days, we can see you for your scheduled appointments.

If you, your child, or any member of your family returned from travel to one of these countries in the last 14 days, the travelers are requested to stay at home until 14 days have passed. This applies to your child even if they had previously been cleared to be in school. This will continue to be the protocol going forward until such time as the CDC changes the guidance. If possible, we ask that you contact us at least 24-hours in advance of any scheduled appointments to share this information; we will do our best to reschedule any missed appointments.

The symptoms of the Coronavirus appear to be vague with fever, cough, and shortness of breath (when not coughing). Approximately 80% of the cases present like a common cold. We recognize that this can be a stressful time for many members of our community. We encourage you to take steps to safeguard your personal health and to minimize disease transmission to the community.

Below are some helpful tips from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) to stay healthy:

- Wash your hands with hot, soapy water for at least 20 seconds
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash
- Avoid touching your eyes, mouth, and nose
- Stay home when you are sick
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using household cleaning sprays or a wipe
- Avoid touching frequently used public objects with your hands like elevator buttons, doorknobs, and public transportation handles.
- Get a flu shot, not because it will prevent the spread of COVID-19, but so that you can stay healthy and out of the hospital

We will be increasing our disinfecting efforts in the Center during the next few weeks and will have hand sanitizer and tissues available in all of our spaces. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us directly at 617-373-2492.