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March 12, 2020

Ironstone Farm is cancelling all therapies, lessons and programs at our nonprofit through at least Sunday, March 22, given the rapidly evolving nature of the novel coronavirus global-health situation.

The safety and health of our clients, volunteers, staff and friends is always our top priority at Ironstone Farm. Given what is known about the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19), and the hands-on nature of our programs, our organization wants to make every possible contribution to containing the spread of this virus and ensuring the health of our community.

We will reassess the evolving situation each Thursday and then update our website and email all clients and volunteers who registered to be part of our springtime programs. While we will take this week-by-week, as of now the earliest that Ironstone’s programs would recommence is Monday, March 23.

Those who miss sessions or lessons as a result of this health emergency can receive a credit toward use in the next block (Block 3). We will not be able to make-up or refund these sessions given the impact on our nonprofit. We hope we can all pitch in together to find solutions during this time.

We will continue to be in contact with the Andover Health Division and review information shared by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and top state and local health officials to ensure our polices align with or surpass the latest recommended preventative measures.

Our decision was made after much consultation with professionals dealing with this fast-moving crisis. We ask that everyone join with us in supporting the effort to stop the spread by understanding our decision and working with us as we move forward in this uncharted territory. Again, we will post an official update on week-to-week cancellation decisions every Thursday evening both on our [website](https://ironstonefarm.org) and via Constant Contact email messaging. The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html), the [Massachusetts Department of Public Health](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/about-covid-19) and the [Andover Health Division](https://andoverma.gov/845/Information-on-Coronavirus) are providing frequent updates and recommendations, and can help people stay informed about the novel coronavirus.

We hope you are all safe and look forward to sharing happy times with you in the near future.