

March 13th, 2020

The Coronavirus.

The LGBT Center of Greater Reading stands for the health and well-being of our diverse communities; protecting our community is our priority. We have been closely monitoring and adhering to the recommendations made by the CDC, Pennsylvania State Department of Health, and the Berks County Department of Health.  Please know, this decision was made after careful deliberation by our staff and board and is intended to protect our most vulnerable community, especially those with health risks. Because of the current increasing call for social distancing, we are taking the following actions:

* The LGBT Center of Greater Reading will be suspending all in-person/onsite groups and services effective immediately, through March 31st
* **\*\*We are currently working to offer virtual meeting space so our Voices Drop-In Center group (teens and young adults, 14-21) can participate as normally scheduled.**
* Other supportive services may be offered in virtual formats, please check the event page on our Facebook platform to keep informed whether the program is happening virtually or if it is cancelled.
* Staff and volunteers have been instructed to stay home if they feel sick. Interns have been asked to work from home for the remainder of their semester.
* For community members who are visiting the center for meetings, they are asked to avoid handshakes, or other forms of physical contact.
* Hand sanitizer is available throughout our building, and staff and community members are encouraged to thoroughly wash their hands or use hand sanitizer frequently.
* As soon as it is safe to do so, The LGBT Center of Greater Reading will resume in-person programming. We will keep you updated on our plans through email notifications and our social media platforms.
* **If you feel isolated or feel like you need someone to talk to, CALL US at 610-864-5800. If you reach a voicemail, one of us will call you back as soon as we can. The Center can also be reached via email for support: mdech@lgbtcenterofreading.com.**
* As soon as it is safe to do so, The LGBT Center of Greater Reading will resume in-person programming. We will keep you updated on our plans through email notifications and our social media platforms.

To our funders…please know that we are responding to this pandemic by following best practices of social distancing. We will continue our work within the guidelines, expectations, deliverable of our grants. We expect we will not be the only ones adjusting to timelines and shifting expectations with our work. The health and safety of our already vulnerable population is at stake. We will remain flexible and hopeful as the situation unfolds.