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May 21, 2020

Dear KDE Leadership,

I sincerely hope this finds you and your family safe and healthy. During this crisis, helping young people stay healthy and physically active has become more important than ever. We appreciate Governor Beshear's renewed daily focus on teaching and promoting important life enhancing health education skills. As a health and physical educator, my professional community has always strived to teach students the necessary skills to maintain their physical, mental, and social-emotional health — and now thanks to NTI our lessons and activities are helping entire families stay healthy!

Since the crisis began, our association's goal has been to provide factual, up-to-date information and resources to support the entire educational community. We will continue to work with the health and physical education community to gather a variety of distance-learning resources — many requiring no specific technology or equipment — to provide schools with short-term solutions for teaching and self-care. You can expect more of these resources to come online in the future.

We also are happy to share things that are in development now with national partners that we will continue to share with you to help inform re-entry plans. Action steps include:

- **Developing school re-entry guidelines:** SHAPE America in consultation with CDC and state and district leaders, are working diligently to expedite the development of health and physical education re-entry guidance for schools. This will include specific, evidence-informed guidelines and operating procedures to keep school communities mentally and physically safe as we shape a new approach to learning. They are also working in conjunction with Kaiser Permanente to include this guidance in their "re-entry playbook" for schools, which will be available this summer.
- **Developing new professional development and resources:** Through the partnership with CDC, SHAPE America will create new tools to ensure schools have ongoing support for implementation of the re-entry guidelines throughout the upcoming school year. And, because social distancing and isolation have had such a profound impact on student learning and mental health, we will be curating practical, trauma-informed resources — including training videos for preservice teachers — to meet students where they are physically and emotionally.



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This is a fast-moving and evolving situation. Kentucky's previous work in promoting wellness and local planning/policy through the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child framework has laid an important foundation to help better inform local decision making now. And while we are actively working with educators at all levels to find the answers you need, we are also prepared to adapt to whatever the future may bring. The bottom line is we are here as a partner to support schools and the communities they serve. We look forward to continuing to serve all educators in meeting the needs of their students and families. As always, we look forward to any and all opportunities to work with you and other shareholders across the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jamie Sparks". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Jamie Sparks, Executive Director**

**KY Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation & Dance**

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