Massachusetts has seen some small gains in the fight against Coronavirus but has no imminent plans to move forward in the reopening plans. At this time Governor Baker continues to focus state efforts on plans to safely open universities and schools. Governor Baker has also urged Massachusetts residents to shop and visit local establishments throughout Massachusetts as part of the "My Local MA" campaign.

For better or worse, it’s safe to say Summer 2020 will be one we will all remember thanks to COVID. We thought for this week’s activity it would be fun to create a Summer Time Capsule with your child to document all of the silver linings and good memories made this summer for you to look back on. You can simply create your own similar to the one pictured here, or add in your own specific questions. Don’t forget to seal it up in a bottle or envelope with any other mementos you may want to include and tuck it away to open in Summer 2030! Bonus points if you actually bury it in the backyard!

The Action for Boston Community Development is a nonprofit human services organization-their mission is to provide residents in the Greater Boston region tools and resources to support the transition from poverty to stability, and from stability to success. ABCD provides thousands of families with emergency food, clothing, and housing. Visit their website to learn more about how to access support with clothing, food and rent assistance, and school supplies. https://bostonabcd.org
This week we are highlighting the phase-in strategy for the upcoming school year, as well as the supports and resources offered by Mass Advocates for Children (MAC).

The phase-in strategies follow the guidelines from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary schools.

Boston Public Schools Welcome Centers continue to be open from August 17 through September 18 for telephone and in-person services.

The reopening plan address 3 options available to districts including in-school learning, remote learning, and a hybrid model.

Massachusetts Advocates for Children offers a tool for parents to track their child’s remote special education services and instruction. Visit the Remote Education Log at https://log.education/.

For more information on Mass Advocates for Children, visit https://www.massadvocates.org/
Boston Medical Center is here to support you during this difficult time. Check out our new resource spreadsheet, which has links to online learning, social stories, music/animal/fitness programs, live online classes and more. See the second tab for free meals and financial services throughout Massachusetts. This spreadsheet is available in multiple languages and will be continuously updated as new resources become available.

tinyurl.com/CoronaResourcesBMC

Know of something to add? Email autismprogram@bmc.org with suggestions.

Our Autism Program is hosting a monthly virtual information series for parents and caregivers. Sessions are hosted on Zoom and are run by staff & guest speakers who will cover various topics and answer parent questions. To register for the webinar series, visit:

tinyurl.com/DBPparentgroups

Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics clinicians are available by phone/Zoom for telehealth visits and consultations. Please call us at 617-414-4841 if you have any questions or are in need of support. To create a free Zoom account, visit zoom.us/signup.

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This newsletter is brought to you by the Autism Program at Boston Medical Center, a family support program of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics. We are committed to supporting any family of DBP during this time, regardless of diagnosis. Please don’t hesitate to reach out, and follow us on social media for more tips and information!