Play friends,

We’re looking forward to seeing you all at the Conference on the Value of Play later this month, where we are introducing the most exciting lineup of speakers and learning opportunities in our coalition’s history!

As we get closer to the Conference on the Value of Play, we wanted to share what we’re doing to address potential impacts of Coronavirus (COVID-19).

We are working closely with Clemson University officials to monitor the situation, and there are no confirmed cases here at this time. Our university is actively engaged in daily planning to inform and reduce any possible risk. All of this work is currently precautionary and as of today, it’s still business as usual for the conference.

We have also spoken with our contacts at the Madren Conference Center, our caterer and our host hotels. They have all assured us that they are also monitoring the situation and have already started implementing further precautionary measures.

We know many of you have already made your travel plans to attend the conference, and that some of you are joining us from other parts of the world. Wherever you’re traveling from, we ask you to monitor the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) website in the days leading to your flight, to ensure you are aware of any possible delays or other considerations.

If you’re wondering what you can do to avoid the virus, the CDC’s advice is to wash your hands often and thoroughly. If you’re feeling sick, please stay home.

There are so many great opportunities to expand your understanding of play at this year’s conference. You’ll benefit from keynote and featured speakers, PLAYtalks, PLAYinstitutes, research symposium, educational sessions, roundtables, grant opportunities, networking, and more. Our new "Health and PLAY" Institute is also a particularly timely, given current events – as is our keynote from WebMD Chief Medical Officer John Whyte, MD. Here’s our session line up to date: http://bit.ly/2020play-glance

We’ll continue to check in with updates as we receive them.

Respectfully,
Stephanie Garst