Dear Prospective and Current Students, Alumni, Faculty, Staff, extended PSMT family, and fellow massage therapists,

Greetings and Salutations from the Pittsburgh School of Massage Therapy!

Our school building is closed for the foreseeable future. Your practice has been suspended indefinitely as well. What do we do? What drives the decisions we make? It seems in this time of unknowns, questions are abundant, but answers are few. There is so much conflicting information out there.

Here at the Pittsburgh School of Massage Therapy, although the physical building is closed, our hearts are wide open, and we have been very busy! We have stepped outside our comfort zone to make the best of this difficult situation. We have started on-line classes for our students in accordance with the guidance from the Massage Therapy Board and the Private Licensed Schools Board. We are stepping up our communications in an effort to be a beacon of light in this dark confusion. We are starting to offer On-Line Live Continuing Education. We are sifting through the information to create a plan for reopening the building. We are looking at our standard practices both as an educational organization and as a stakeholder in the Massage Therapy profession to ensure that we are protecting the safety and health of our entire community.

Our decisions are being based on guidance from legislation, from our profession, and what we feel is the safest for our community. As we proactively discuss protocols for returning to the building, caution and safely guide our path. When the governor gives the green light for us to resume operations, prior to opening, we will thoughtfully put into place policies and procedures that take into consideration the legislation from the governor, the Private Licensed Schools Board, and the Massage Therapy Board; guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and World Health Organization (WHO); recommendations from the Pennsylvania Association of Private School Administrators (PAPSA) and the Massage Therapy professional organizations; and best practices from across not only our profession, but similar professions and educational institutions.

While you may be looking for someone to give you the answers, we will not tell you what to do. We will share with you the information that we use to make our decisions, and encourage you to make your own educated, informed decisions. Every situation is unique; what works for us may or may not work for you and your practice. Regardless of the details, we must keep one thing at the forefront of our decision-making: what is the best course of action that will sustain the health and safety of those we serve as well as our own?

There are still many important questions to be addressed, and there are still so many unknowns. In the meantime, here are some resources that we feel are important.

David Briggs
Executive Director
Pittsburgh School of Massage Therapy