In order to bring staff and students back to the Learning Centers in the safest way possible and in a manner that complies with Massachusetts’ Reopening Guidance, the Learning Centers will adhere to the procedures and safety measures outlined in the North River Collaborative Reopening Plan. The Learning Centers Supplement highlights additional measures that are specific to the Learning Center programs.

This plan will be regularly evaluated to ensure compliance with all Federal, State and Local Guidelines and may change periodically based on the COVID-19 virus’ current manifestation. Kate Stevens, Program Coordinator is the COVID19 Response Leader for Learning Centers. Clarice Doliber, Assistant Executive Director, will be the COVID-19 Response Leader for the Collaborative.

In the event of a positive COVID-19 case, the Program Coordinator and the NRC COVID-19 Response Leader will contact the local Board of Health for guidance on the length of closure and procedures needed to safely reopen, since procedures can change due to local manifestation of the virus.

Contact information for local health authorities: MA Dept. of Public Health-617-624-6000 or 211; Local Boards of Health-Whitman: 781-618-9754; Pembroke:781-293-3844; E. Bridgewater: 508-378-1612; W. Bridgewater: 508-894-1209

**Student Health**

Families and caregivers are asked to ensure that their student is in good health before sending to school. If the students have the following symptoms (see list), they should stay home from school and call their Primary Care Physician. When/if the student is out of school, please call your student’s Learning Center program and speak to the program nurse or classroom teacher.

**Symptoms:**

- Fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, chills, or shaking chills)
- Cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough)
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Headache (when in combination with other symptoms)
- Muscle aches or body aches
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- Fatigue, when in combination with other symptoms
• Nasal congestion or runny nose (not due to other known causes, such as allergies – when in combination with other symptoms)

In addition to the parent symptom check each morning, staff will monitor students throughout the day for COVID-19 symptoms and report immediately to nurse, teacher, or program coordinator. In the event a child is experiencing atypical shortness of breath or extreme difficulty breathing, call emergency medical services immediately.

Emergency medical forms and the COVID Acknowledgement form must be returned prior to the start of in-person sessions on September 15th, 2020. These forms include relevant medical information and comprehensive contact information to easily reach families in case of concerns. The Program Coordinator and classroom/school nurses will review medical information and a nurse will reach out to parents of high-risk children to encourage them to discuss with their healthcare provider whether the program is a safe option for their child, if any additional protections are necessary, and what supports can be offered to best assure safety. Whenever possible, and with parent permission, nurses will contact the child’s health care provider for explicit guidance. High risk students include those who depend on mechanical ventilation, children with tracheostomies, children who need intermittent suctioning and students with underlying respiratory compromise or immune deficiencies. Dr. Belcher, the program’s physician, was also consulted about medically safe student procedures. Dr. Belcher indicated that neither nebulizer treatments nor suctioning could be done safely in the school environment due to the risks of the COVID-19 virus. He recommended that nebulizer treatments should occur at home before and after school hours and that Learning Center nurses should work with each student’s pediatrician for alternatives to nebulizer treatments such as metered dose inhalers (MDIs) with a spacer. Additionally, nurses should discuss the implications of their inability to perform suctioning in the school environment with each student’s pediatrician. A collaborative approach should be used to inform decision-making relative to how each student can safely access in-person instruction.

We understand that some families of students with disabilities will have concerns about the health and safety of their children and may choose not to have them participate in in-person learning. In these situations, remote learning will continue. The student’s Learning Center Team will provide remote learning in accordance with the student’s Remote Learning Plan. Instruction will be both synchronous (live via Zoom Education, Google Meet) and asynchronous (via Google Classroom, ClassDojo, and/or teacher designated appropriate platform). In compliance with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, it is the expectation that the student will participate in at least 50% of synchronous learning.

**Masks/Face Covering and other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

Families are asked to provide students with masks/face coverings for school. The Learning Center classrooms will have extra masks, if/when needed for students.

It is expected that the student, if medically and behaviorally able, will be wearing a mask/face covering during transportation on district provided vans and/or buses.

In the event that documentation that supports an exception to the mask requirement is not available in the student’s file, the classroom or school nurse will request permission to speak with the student’s medical provider to obtain the necessary information if available. When working with students who are unable to wear a mask for medical or behavioral reasons, and who are unable to maintain a 6 foot distance from others, staff will wear a disposable mask, a face shield, gloves and a gown. Staff may also choose to wear an N95 mask in lieu of disposable mask or a double layer of disposable masks if in close personal contact.
Social Distancing

In addition to meeting the square footage requirement to maintain the recommended social distance of 6 feet, Learning Center classrooms have also been set up to accommodate students need for frequent movement.

Students will remain in their transportation vehicle until assisted off by staff to enter one at a time. Staff will assist students in entering the building by the same door one at a time while maintaining appropriate social distancing. The student will be met by the classroom nurse or teacher who will check to make sure the student is feeling okay as well as provide hand sanitizer and/or direct the student (with teacher aide as appropriate) to the hand washing station.

Physical distancing is required for students and staff throughout all areas of the building and during all activities except when student safety or assistance level necessitates a closer level of staff support. This includes but is not limited to transitions to the bathroom, traveling to and from outdoors, and during all indoor and outdoor activities. Learning Center classroom students will continue to access restrooms one at a time with staff assistance and will follow guidelines of building for the appropriate restroom to utilize.

The gymnasium/cafeteria will not be utilized. Learning Center staff will follow building protocols for the utilization of any other building space. Field trips and multiple classroom gatherings will not be permitted.

Visitors and Volunteers

No outside visitors and volunteers are permitted, except for contracted service providers for the purpose of special education, required support services, or program monitoring as authorized by the school or district. For visitors who need to enter, they should first gain approval, be briefed on school COVID-19 policies, and verify they do not have symptoms. These individuals are required to wear a mask covering their nose and mouth and be aware of any other health and safety protocols for the school.

Learning Center staff meetings and team meetings will be held via Zoom.

TEAM meetings, IEP meetings, etc., will be held according to host building guidelines, sending district guidelines and with consideration of parent/guardian needs. If meetings are held in person, they will be held in a location that will allow for social distancing.

Student Grouping and Classrooms

Extra furniture will be removed prior to students’ arrival to maximize space in the classroom. Whenever possible, windows will be open and doors ajar to ensure proper ventilation.

Students will remain with their classroom group only for the day.

Teachers and classroom staff will compile student specific instructional, personal care, and mealtime materials in a bin or other storage container in order to limit sharing and touching of classroom supplies. Disinfectant wipes will be provided in order to clean any shared materials before and after use.

Each classroom will provide space for storage of student and staff belongings, so everyone’s belongings are adequately separated and will not be handled unnecessarily during the day. Staff and students will be asked to limit what they bring into the school to essential items only.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

The host school district’s Custodian will conduct daily cleaning and disinfection of the building in accordance with each building’s protocols.
EPA approved cleaning products (cleaning spray, paper towels, gloves, and hand sanitizer) will be available in all classrooms so staff can disinfect and clean when needed.

In addition to the frequent cleaning and sanitizing outlined earlier in this document, each staff member will clean and sanitize all high-tough areas in their classroom such as desks, door handles, and student materials after students have exited for the day. A daily cleaning checklist and log will be completed.

**Education and Training**

All staff, including substitutes as needed, will be trained before in-person instruction to students with disabilities can be conducted. All staff will sign an Acknowledgement Form indicating their understanding of the training content. The Learning Center Program and District Services Coordinators will check-in with their employees’ post training and throughout the period of COVID-19 precautions to assess additional training needs. In addition, students will be trained about COVID-19 health and safety considerations, as well as newly adopted routines and protocols.

**Staff Training:**
- Training will be provided by qualified professionals. Coordinators will provide general training and nurses will provide in depth PPE training for those programs with close personal contact with students. Resources from accredited organizations will be utilized when available.
- Training will be completed in two phases; prior to entry into any school or NRC building without students and then a deeper level of training prior to in-person services being offered.
- Training will include all staff who have contact with students, including but not limited to educators, support and related services staff, administrators, clerical staff, custodial staff, and food service providers.
- Training for staff will include the following but should not be limited to:
  - Safe and effective use of protective equipment (putting on and taking off protective equipment and disposing and/or washing protective equipment);
  - General information related to COVID-19 from the CDC;
  - How COVID-19 is spread;
  - How to prevent the spread of COVID-19;
  - Symptoms of COVID-19; and
  - When to seek medical assistance for students or staff who exhibit symptoms or become sick.
- Specific building and classroom procedures to maintain social distancing and hygiene requirements.

**Additional Resource:** [COVID-19 Infection Prevention in Childcare Programs](#)

**Education for Students on Safety Protocols**
- Students will be provided with training through direct instruction and/or embedded content in lessons and activities, as developmentally appropriate.
- Training content will include general information related to COVID-19 from the CDC as well as content to ensure students are familiar with changes to their regular school practices, such as routines for entering and exiting the school, snacks/meals, assembling, passing in hallways, being transported via bus or van, and accessing the bathroom.
- Students will be explicitly trained on how to use protective equipment, as appropriate. Training will include how to put it on, take it off, dispose of it, and where it should be placed in instances...
where it needs to be cleaned by staff.

- Social stories, visual cues, and other appropriate developmental strategies will be used to reinforce these new concepts and protocols.

**Educational Information for Families**

- Parents will be provided with information about each program’s general COVID-19 protocols
- Parents will be provided with information about training that their student receives
- Parents will be provided with written material about COVID-19 symptoms, Handwashing procedures and Cloth Face Covering usage.
- Parents will be informed about the use of over the counter alcohol-based hand sanitizer (at least 60% ethanol or 70% isopropanol) and be asked about any contraindications to its use with their child (e.g. allergies)
COVID-19 Information

What is COVID-19?
According to the CDC, Coronavirus (COVID-19) is an illness caused by a virus that can spread from person to person. The virus that causes COVID-19 is a new coronavirus that has spread throughout the world. COVID-19 symptoms can range from mild (or no symptoms) to severe illness. There is no specific treatment for COVID-19, but medical care can be sought to help relieve symptoms.

How is COVID-19 spread?
The CDC states that the COVID-19 virus is primarily spread from person to person through close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands, followed by touching the mouth, nose, or eyes. You can become infected from airborne respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. You may also be able to get it by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it, and then by touching your mouth, nose, or eyes.

What are symptoms of COVID-19?
According to the CDC, infected people have a wide range of symptoms reported, ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. People with the following symptoms may have COVID-19: cough, sore throat, fever (temperature over 100.4 degrees), muscle pain, chills, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell, etc. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus.

What should I do if I have COVID-19 Symptoms?
Each employee shall self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before coming to work each day. If you are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms or in close contact to a known or suspected COVID-19 case, then you should immediately contact the Program Director or his/her designee and your health care provider.

What do I do if I have been diagnosed with COVID-19?
If you are diagnosed with COVID-19, you must immediately contact your supervisor for purposes of cleaning/disinfecting and contact tracing. NRC will notify the Local Board of Health. If diagnosed with COVID-19, you must not return to work until you have met the home isolation requirements of the CDC and MDPH.

Who is at risk of severe Illness?
Everyone is at risk of getting COVID-19. However, based on currently available information, the CDC states that older adults and people who have serious underlying medical conditions may be at a higher risk for more severe illness, which include:

- People who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility
- People 65 years and older
- People of all ages with underlying medical conditions that include people with chronic lung disease, moderate to severe asthma, serious heart conditions, people
who are immunocompromised, people with severe obesity (BMI of 40 or higher), people with diabetes, people with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis, and people with liver disease.

As a result, workers who are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19 are encouraged to inquire about leave options and/or arrange an alternate work assignment if possible. Employees should notify their supervisor of concerns related to COVID-19 susceptibility.

**How to protect yourself and others from COVID-19:**
According to the CDC, practicing social distancing, wearing a face covering, and practicing effective hand hygiene are all things you can do to help protect yourself and others from COVID-19.
**CDC Recommendation for Hand Hygiene**

The CDC suggests the following steps when **washing your hands**:

1) Wet your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap
2) Lather your hands by rubbing them together with the soap (Lather the back of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails)
3) Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds
4) Rinse your hands well under clean, running water
5) Dry your hands under a towel or air dry them

The CDC suggests the following steps when applying **hand sanitizer**:

1) Apply the gel product to the palm of one hand
2) Rub your hands together
3) Rub the gel over all surfaces of your hands and fingers until your hands are dry (this should take around 20 seconds)

**CDC Recommendation for Face Covering**

- Wash your hands or sanitize your hands using hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol before putting on the face covering
- Hold the ear loops or ties, make sure it covers your nose and mouth, and secure it around your chin
- Try to fit it snuggly against the side of your face
- Make sure you can breathe easily

To remove your face covering, the CDC states that you follow these simple steps:

1) Untie the strings behind your head or stretch the ear loops
2) Handle only by the ear loops or ties
3) Fold the outside corners together
4) Place the covering in the washing machine as face coverings are to be washed after each use
5) Be careful not to touch your eyes, nose and mouth when removing the face covering and wash your hands immediately after removing.
Dear Student Program or District Services employee,

As we begin the process of re-opening our programs for the 20-21 School Year, we are committed to providing you with a clean and safe environment to work in. As a result, a COVID-19 Control Plan has been developed so that you know what is expected of you in order to return to the workplace. The contents of this plan have been memorialized below. For those in host schools, we are working with these schools to create this environment and will be taking additional steps for each classroom as needed.

When you arrive at your school or classroom, you will see posters emphasizing the important steps all employees, students (as able) and visitors need to follow in accordance with the Massachusetts re-opening guidance. We assure employees, students and visitors we have taken steps to comply with the Massachusetts mandatory standards for workplaces including:

- Our employees are wearing face coverings
- Social distance measures have been put in place
- We have developed thorough cleaning and disinfecting protocols
- We provide handwashing options
- We are regularly sanitizing high touch areas
- Our staff have been trained regarding social distancing and hygiene protocols

Below are updated expectations of all North River Collaborative employees. Please review each one, and if you agree, please sign below. If you have questions, please contact your supervisor or Kelli O’Brien McKinnon at kbmckinnon@nrcollab.org. We appreciate your assistance in keeping our North River Collaborative community as healthy as possible.

1. HEALTH AND SAFETY
   a. Before I come to work each day, I will conduct a personal assessment of my health in accordance with Massachusetts government guidance to determine if there is any indication that I may have symptoms and/or may have been exposed to COVID-19. When I come to work each day, I recognize that I will be confirming that I do not have any symptoms related to, and have not been knowingly exposed to, COVID-19. If this status changes, I agree to immediately leave the workplace and immediately contact my Coordinator or his/her designee.
   b. I agree to contact my supervisor and not come into work if I am feeling ill.
c. I acknowledge that, if my temperature exceeds 100 degrees Fahrenheit, I will not be permitted to work.
d. While some coughs and sneezes are unrelated to COVID-19, like allergies, no matter the situation, when coughing and/or sneezing, I agree to cover my mouth and nose with a tissue or use the inside of my bent elbow. I will follow-up immediately with washing my hands with warm water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% ethanol or at least 70 % isopropanol.

2. FACE COVERING
   a. I agree to wear a proper face covering at all times when on Collaborative or school property with one exception below.
   b. I understand that I may take the mask off if I am alone in an office area; however, I must wash my hands or sanitize my hands with hand sanitizer with at least 60% ethanol or at least 70 % isopropanol whenever putting on my mask or if I touch the face covering.
   c. If you don’t have a face covering, then one will be provided to you (please contact your supervisor if you don’t have a face covering).
   d. I confirm it is my responsibility to wash my face coverings after each use.
   e. I understand that if I forget my face covering, then we will provide you with a face covering (please contact your supervisor if you forget), but we strongly encourage you to come prepared.

3. SOCIAL DISTANCING
   a. I agree to keep 6 feet between myself and others while on School or Collaborative property unless the needs of a student require me to be closer. I understand that DESE requires a 3-foot minimum distance but is encouraging a 6-foot distance whenever possible for the 20-21 school year.
   b. I will follow all posted arrows and signs.
   c. Employees should refrain from using another person’s equipment, phone, computer, desk, or entering private offices without an invitation from the respective employee, and only when the six-foot social distancing protocol can be followed.

4. GLOVES
   a. I understand gloves are required when performing cleaning duties.
   b. It is my choice to wear gloves during the work day, but I recognize that gloves DO NOT stop the spread of germs but are a barrier for skin and I will still need to wash my gloved hands or use sanitizing gel as if I were wearing no gloves at all.
   c. I understand that gloves will be made available for those staff members who perform cleaning duties beyond sanitizing their work areas.

5. CLEANLINESS
   a. I agree to keep my hands washed/sanitized while on duty and or on School and Collaborative Property.

6. SANITZATION
   a. I understand that gloves are required when cleaning and must be immediately disposed of safely.
7. MISCELLANEOUS
   a. Delivery of food must be outside of the Collaborative/School location and received in strict accordance with social distancing standards
   b. In addition to the above guidelines, I will follow the specific guidelines for the building in which I work.

8. ACCOMMODATIONS AND TIME OFF
   a. Employees with accommodation or time off needs must contact their supervisor.
   b. The Collaborative will provide reasonable accommodations in accordance with policies and laws.
   c. The Collaborative provides paid sick time and paid time off in accordance with the CARES ACT Family First Coronavirus Response Act and any other policies.
   d. If an employee is unable for any reason to comply with any of the above, please contact your supervisor immediately to discuss your needs.

9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

   Your return to work is voluntary. Should you decide not to return to work, you will be considered to have resigned your position with the Collaborative unless other arrangements have been made with the Collaborative to provide you with approved time off. Please contact your supervisor.

   Please be assured the North River Collaborative is doing its part to comply with the State and Federal Guidance to provide the safest possible workplace and requires employees do the same.

   By signing this document below, you will be acknowledging and agreeing to comply with this policy. You will be agreeing to help us ensure that we are all maintaining all of the proper precautions put in place to keep the workplace safe and make sure our reopened workplace is a healthy environment for both employees and our students and families.

   Failure to comply with these requirements may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment.

   I further understand that I will also have to complete a staff training on specific protocols designed to address student needs during COVID-19.

   A copy of this document will be part of your personnel record.

   Please print your name, sign your name, and date this form in the spaces below and provide it to your coordinator or his/her designee.

   ___________________________________  ___________________________________
   Print Name                                         Signature

   ___________________________________
   Date
By signing this form below, you are acknowledging that you received training on specific protocols required during the COVID-19 pandemic prior to in-person instruction of students with disabilities being conducted.

I acknowledge that I have been trained on the following topics:

- Health and safety protocols, social distancing, and infection control practices (handwashing, face coverings, and gloves)
- Group sizes and staffing
- Safe and effective use of protective equipment (putting on and taking on protective equipment and disposing and/or washing protective equipment)
- Classroom meals
- Cleaning and disinfecting practices
- Health office practices, protective equipment, management and isolation of students and/or staff showing signs and symptoms of illness
- Assisting students that require less than a minimum of 6 feet
- Toileting protocols
- Physical intervention and restraint protocols
- Pickup and drop-off of students and preparing for pickup
- How the transportation of sick, symptomatic, or exposed students will be addressed
- When to seek medical assistance for students or staff who exhibit symptoms or become sick

I also acknowledge that I have access to the NRC Reopening Plan which can be found using the following link: https://northrivercollaborative.org/.

Please note that the contents of these trainings may be changed based on new guidance from the MDPH, CDC, and/or DESE.

Please print your name, sign your name, and date this form in the spaces below and provide it to your coordinator or his/her designee.

_________________________________  ___________________________________
Print Name                          Signature

_________________________________
Date
Dear Learning Center Parents/Guardians:

As we begin the process of returning to school in person this fall, we are committed to providing your child with a clean and safe learning environment. We wanted to let you know that we have taken steps to comply with the Massachusetts mandatory standards for workplaces and Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, CDC, and MDPH guidance, including:

- Obtaining all required Personal Protective Equipment and Sanitization Supplies
- Developing health and safety procedures to control the spread of COVID-19
- Training our staff about health and safety procedures

As part of our procedures, our staff will conduct a daily personal assessment of their health and not come to work if they are exhibiting any symptoms of, or been in contact with anyone with, COVID-19. They will wear face coverings, maintain 6 feet of social distance except when student’s personal or behavioral needs require close contact, and follow strict hand sanitizing procedures throughout the day. Classrooms have been designed to maximize space between students and to minimize sharing of materials. Common and high touch areas/items will be regularly sanitized.

We are asking parents to assist us in maintaining a safe and healthy learning environment by performing a symptom check with your child each morning before sending them to school, and we have included the symptoms of COVID-19. We also have a few other requests for your assistance noted below. Please review each one, and if you agree, please sign below. If you have questions, please contact the Program Coordinator, Kate Stevens at (781) 878-6056 ext. 103 or kstevens@nrcollab.org. We appreciate your assistance in keeping our Learning Center community as healthy as possible.

1. **HEALTH AND SAFETY**
   a. Before I send my child to school each day, I will make sure that they have no symptoms of COVID19 and have not been exposed to anyone with COVID19.
   b. If my child has symptoms, I will keep them home and contact the classroom nurse or teacher.
      - Symptoms of COVID19 are, included but not limited to:
        o Temperature greater than 100°F
        o Change in breath sounds, from your child’s baseline
        o Shortness of breath
        o Oxygen saturation less than 90%, or less than your child’s baseline
        o Body aches
        o Rash on fingers or toes
        o New lack of smell or taste
        o New cough
o Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea  
o Nasal congestion OR runny nose  
o Sore throat  
o Headache  
o Chills  

b. If my child has been exposed to anyone with COVID19, I will inform the classroom nurse, teacher or Program Coordinator, and will keep my child home for 14 days after the last exposure to the person who tested positive, regardless of test result. *

c. If my child tests positive for COVID19, I will inform the classroom nurse, teacher or Program Coordinator and keep them home for at least 14 days or as advised by DPH.*

d. If my child is symptomatic, he/she may return to school 10 days from the start of symptoms, as long as their symptoms have improved and they have been without fever for at least 24 hours prior to their return to school. *

e. If my child develops symptoms while at school, I will pick them up immediately and/or have made arrangements for a trusted adult to pick them up.

f. While some coughs and sneezes may be unrelated to COVID19, I will work with the school team to make sure that my child can follow proper procedures to cover their cough. If they are unable to do so, and unable to wear a mask, they might have to stay home from school for a period of time.

g. I will be sure the school has updated contact information in the event my child needs to be sent home.

* I understand DPH guidelines for return to school post COVID19 exposure/symptoms are consistently being modified. I agree to follow the most up to date guidance on students return to the school.*

2. FACE COVERING  
a. I understand that my child will be expected to wear a face covering in accordance with guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. I will do my best to help them understand and practice this expectation before returning to school.

b. I agree to provide my child with a face covering.

c. I confirm it is my responsibility to wash my child’s face coverings after each use.

d. I understand that if my child does not have a face covering, that the program will provide him/her with one.

f. I understand that just as my child may not be able to wear a face covering, there may be other students in my child’s classroom who cannot wear a face covering, as well.

3. SOCIAL DISTANCING AND HYGIENE  
a. I will reinforce with my child the importance of keeping 6 feet away from others while on School or Collaborative property whenever possible.

b. I will reinforce the importance of frequent handwashing or use of hand sanitizer with my child.
c. I understand that expectations will be based on the age and developmental ability of each student, but that if my child’s behavior jeopardizes the health and safety of others, the team may need to convene to make alternative plans.

4. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

By signing this document below, you will be agreeing to help us ensure that we are providing as healthy an environment as possible for your child and all of the students and staff of the Learning Centers.

________________________________________  __________________________________________
Print Name  Signature

________________________________________
Date