

[Academic Outreach and Enrichment Reference Guide](#)

[Related Services Outreach and Enrichment Reference Guide](#)

March 16, 2020

10:30 a.m.

Dear Valley Collaborative Families,

I am writing to follow up with our Valley families and community-at-large as the COVID-19 crisis continues to evolve. As always, the health and safety of all of our students, staff, and families are our top priority. Valley Collaborative Lead Nurse, Jessica Scalzi, has been in contact this morning with the Tyngsboro and Billerica Boards of Health, who have recommended that Valley Collaborative follow the three week school closure in Massachusetts issued by Governor Baker yesterday. Over the last 72 hours, the Valley team has worked around the clock to develop a robust outreach program to address the following areas of focus.

Learning and Related Services: Administration at Valley Collaborative has been working with our dedicated, committed, and knowledgeable teams of educators and related service providers in order to identify opportunities for enrichment activities and learning that can be accessed online and/or at home. These activities are intended to support student learning during our closure and student participation is highly encouraged. Their classroom teacher will be reaching out to you. It is not mandatory, and this work will not be graded and is for enrichment purposes.

Valley Collaborative's related service providers (i.e. Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, Speech Language Pathologists, Social Workers, BCBAs) are currently identifying online enrichment opportunities for students, targeting areas of focus while they are at home, which can be performed with family members and/or via online vendors, through Valley's current online educational and therapeutic subscriptions. In order to support our students and families during this challenging time, Valley's Social Workers will be available via phone and/or email, twice a week, given the individual needs of students, or more if needed. Additionally, BCBA support to families will also be made available via phone and/or email based on the needs of the student and family. The therapeutic enrichment needs of our students remain a top priority given the significant health crisis upon us and the length of time we may be closed.

Please refer to Valley's Outreach Enrichment Reference Guides, for both academic and related services, which will be emailed to families today for information regarding specific programs, activities, as well as

login information. These documents will continue to be updated over the next few days as our teams continue to address this matter.

Food services:

We understand that with the uncertainty at this time, families may be concerned with being able to provide breakfast and lunch to their students during the closure. Please reach out to your local school district if you require breakfast or lunch. If there is any difficulty at all with access issues contact us and we would be happy to assist.

Adult programming:

In accordance with Governor Baker's ban on gatherings of 25 people or more statewide, Valley Collaborative has suspended operations of its group based program services through at least April 5, 2020. The Valley Collaborative Adult Services Supervisory Team will be checking in with families and group homes regularly to provide real time updates and to offer what supports and assistance we can to individuals.

Those individuals being supported in 1:1 job readiness, placement and retainment services will continue to be supported at this time. These supports will take place in the community and from our satellite office at 17 Bridge St., Billerica, MA. We are looking forward to further guidance from the EOHHS Congregate Care conference call hosted by Marylou Sudders, the Secretary of Health and Human Services for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, on Wednesday, March 18, 2020.

Please feel free to contact me or your principal at any time. We are here to support you and your family during this difficult time.

Be well,

Chris A. Scott, Ph.D.

Executive Director Valley Collaborative 25 Linnell Circle

Billerica, MA 01821

Tel: (978) 528-7826