



Fall 2020 Reopening Plan

August 14, 2020

Dear Valley Collaborative Community,

It is with great care that we share with you Valley Collaborative's Fall 2020 Reopening Plan. Valley Collaborative serves some of the most vulnerable populations of students and adults. We understand the importance of providing them with the "in-person" services and programming they need. Due to the current global pandemic related to COVID-19, the health and safety of our students and staff remains our top priority. Therefore, this school year will look and feel quite different. The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has issued numerous guidances to assist school districts and Collaboratives serving "high priority students" understand the parameters in which they are allowed to operate and provide services. We wanted to take this opportunity to thank Valley's Board of Directors for their ongoing support of our students and the services we provide them. We are also fully cognizant of how fortunate we are to work under the guidance of the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Their guidance has been comprehensive, professional and supportive.

As Valley prides itself on two-way communication, I wanted to provide you with Valley Collaborative's Fall 2020 Reopening Plan in the hopes of receiving your feedback.

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has asked that all school districts, including special education collaboratives, prepare for three possibilities on the continuum of reopening: 1. In-person learning with new safety requirements; 2. A hybrid of in-person and remote learning; and 3. Remote learning.

Valley's extended school year services (i.e. 'summer school') began remotely on July 13, 2020, and continued remotely for three weeks. On August 3, 2020, Valley returned and safely re-opened its doors for summer school and offered on-site, in-person learning, in addition to remote learning for those who prefer, through August 21, 2020. For the 2020–2021 school year, Valley is planning to offer its three models of learning to all students and families. On August 6, 2020 Valley Collaborative's Board of Directors voted to allow Valley to continue offering in-person services for students beginning on September 16, 2020. Please note, due to newly released mandates by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Valley has adopted a revised [2020-2021 academic calendar](#) to allow for 10 professional development days on the three learning models at the beginning of September. This has delayed the start date for students to September 16th as it was previously scheduled for September 8th.

Through a systematic approach to communication with our students and families, I, along with Lead Nurse Jessica Scalzi and Valley Elementary School Principal Jennifer Bergeron, Valley Middle School/Valley Transitional High School (transitional programming) Principal Nicole Noska, and Valley Middle School/Valley Transitional High School (alternative programming) Interim Principal Glen Costello, developed parent memos, indicating Valley's reopening plan for August 3, 2020.

Each memo provided details on what to expect as we prepared to have students enter our buildings for the 2020-2021 school year, and linked district-developed protocols, following guidances issued by DESE and in conjunction with the Department of Public Health. Please find each memo linked below.

[Parent Memo - Valley Elementary School Fall Reopening](#)

[Parent Memo - Valley Middle School & Valley Transitional High School: Alternative programming Fall Reopening](#)

[Parent Memo - Valley Middle School & Valley Transitional High School: Transitional programming Fall Reopening](#)

At this time, I wanted to share with you some resources provided by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, including:

- [Initial Fall School Reopening Guidance issued on June 25, 2020](#)
- [Fall Reopening Frequently Asked Questions revised August 3, 2020](#)
- [Fall Reopening Facilities and Operations Guidance issued on July 22, 2020](#)

As we previously communicated for our summer reopening, our leadership team has developed [Valley's Parent/Guardian Return to School Survey](#) to support school reopening, planning, and scheduling. Valley surveyed it's families again on August 14, 2020 asking families to indicate their [Fall Learning Model Selection](#). On August 21, 2020, Valley will be surveying its families with a more comprehensive survey [Parent/Guardian Fall Return To School survey](#) to receive feedback as well as plan for the continuation of in-person programming for the Fall.

Also, Lead Nurse Jessica Scalzi has sent communications via email requesting the return of the below listed forms. If you have not done so already, please return these forms as soon as possible.

- [Hand Sanitizer Permission Form](#)
- [COVID-19 Symptom Checklist Permission Form](#)
- [Valley Collaborative Exclusion and Return to School Policy: COVID-19](#)

Please reach out at any time if you have questions. It is very important that we have open lines of communication at all times, especially as we plan to reopen our buildings.

My best to you always – be well.

Sincerely yours,
Dr. Chris A. Scott,
Executive Director
Valley Collaborative

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Executive Summary

Valley Collaborative began in-person learning on August 3rd, 2020, providing on-site instruction to students enrolled in Valley's extended school year program at Valley Elementary School, Valley Middle School, and Valley Transitional High School. The implementation of our in-person learning plan was highly successful. To prepare for extended school year programming, Valley offered three weeks of remote instruction only from July 13th - July 31st while the last three weeks of our regularly scheduled programming, spanning August 3rd - August 21st, provided families with an option of in-person or remote instruction. The decision on which learning model to implement for summer programming was made on a case by case basis, working collaboratively with each student, family/guardian, and the sending school district.

As such, Valley's primary model of fall reopening will continue to be the in-person learning model, but decisions on each student will be made on a case by case basis, to ensure the learning model supports and meets the educational, social, emotional, medical and nutritional needs of each student. In Valley's in-person learning model, students receive in-person instruction full time in school environments that have been appropriately modified to address health and safety requirements issued by DESE. In Valley's in-person model, there will be a subset of students whose families have decided to continue in a remote learning model while the rest of the school returns in-person full time. We have developed all protocols and procedures necessary to ensure a safe reopening plan, which includes how student learning, scheduling, protocols, and/or facilities use may look different than in traditional in-person learning with no restrictions.

Three Models of Learning

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has required all school districts to submit a plan of reopening. This plan must consist of three learning models as described below. School districts have been asked to prioritize the model voted on by its Board of Directors to begin the school year. On August 6, 2020, Valley Collaborative's Board of Directors voted to allow Valley Collaborative to continue to provide in-person services (in-person learning model) for the Fall with students returning on September 16, 2020.

In-person Learning Model

DESE has defined the "in-person learning model" with the following criteria:

- For this learning model, students receive in-person instruction full time in school environments that have been appropriately modified to address health and safety requirements issued by DESE.
- In this model, districts may still have a subset of students whose families have decided to continue in a remote learning model while the rest of the school returns in-person full time.
- In the description of this model, districts should include information about how student learning, scheduling, protocols, and/or facilities use may look different than in traditional in-person learning with no restrictions.

In Valley Collaborative's in-person learning model, students receive in-person instruction full time in school environments that have been appropriately modified to address health and safety requirements issued by DESE. In Valley's model, there will be a subset of students whose families have decided to continue in a remote learning model while the rest of the school returns in-person full time. We have developed all protocols and procedures necessary to ensure a safe reopening plan, which includes how student learning, scheduling, protocols, and/or facility use may look different than in traditional in-person learning with no restrictions.

Valley's in-person learning model during COVID19 will look different for fall reopening. In-person learning during COVID 19 will be impacted in the following ways compared to in-person learning with no restriction:

- School in-person assemblies will be temporarily offered virtually.
- Meals will be served in classroom among smaller cohorts of students
- Shared therapy spaces will be closed
- Students will remain with their assigned cohorts throughout the day including recess
- Gym, music, & art rooms are temporarily not in use. These specialists will provide instruction in the student classrooms, in an outdoor space, and/or remote into classrooms.

- Transition times have been greatly reduced while still providing movement breaks to students.
- Teachers have modified instruction and instructional spaces to maximize and support social distancing.
- Therapists will not be permitted to provide group instruction to students from different cohorts
- Due to the impact of Covid-19 related restrictions, curriculum delivery in the following areas will be impacted significantly:
 - School trips that include Outdoor Education, Experiential Learning, Life Skills, as well as Community Based Transition and Vocational Programming

Valley Collaborative’s In-Person Learning Model of Reopening

Valley Elementary School, Valley Middle School (Alternative & Transitional Programming),
and Valley Transitional High School (Alternative & Transitional Programming)

	In-Person Learning	Family Choice Remote Learning	Family Choice Hybrid Learning
Student 1	X		
Student 2		X	
Student 3 (Week A)	X		X
Student 3 (Week B)		X	X

Hybrid Learning Model

DESE has defined the “in-person learning model” with the following criteria:

- In a hybrid model, students alternate between in-person learning with safety requirements and remote learning.
- Districts should include information about how student learning will change across the two learning environments (in-person and remote) and provide sample schedules showing how students will rotate between in-person and remote learning models, including whether this varies among student groups and/or grade levels.
- In a hybrid model, some High Needs students may still participate in full-time in-person instruction to ensure effective accommodations, and some families may still decide to keep their children learning remotely full time.

As a collaborative, all of Valley’s students are considered ‘high needs students’ and are supported according to their unique educational plan. It is Valley Collaborative’s understanding that its hybrid model of learning has to allow ‘high needs students’ to still participate in full-time in-person instruction to ensure effective accommodations, and some families may still decide to keep their children learning remotely full time. Students and families/guardians, in coordination with our dedicated team and the student’s sending district, will be given the option to send students in-person full-time one week, while reserving the right to participate in remote learning (full-time) the following week. In this hybrid model, students will participate in synchronous remote learning for core subject areas during the remote learning week. Students who are participating remotely will also be provided with a variety of learning opportunities that include project based learning, pre-recorded virtual lessons, office hours with their educator teams, and teletherapy.

Valley Collaborative’s Hybrid Learning Model of Reopening

Valley Elementary School, Valley Middle School (Alternative & Transitional Programming), and Valley Transitional High School (Alternative & Transitional Programming)

	In-Person Learning Only	Remote Learning Only
Week 1 - Cohort A	X	
Week 1 - Cohort B		X
Week 2 - Cohort A		X
Week 2 - Cohort B	X	

Remote learning model:

DESE has defined the “in-person learning model” with the following criteria:

- In this learning model, remote learning is the default mode of instruction for all students, though some High Needs students may still be served in-person full time or through a hybrid model. Structured Learning Time requirements apply to remote learning.
- Remote learning must include the following requirements per DESE regulations: (1) procedures for all students to participate in remote learning, including a system for tracking attendance and participation; (2) alignment of remote academic work to state standards; (3) a policy for issuing grades for students’ remote academic work; and (4) a method for teachers and administrators to regularly communicate with students’ parents and guardians, including providing interpretation and translation services to limited English proficient parents and guardians.

Districts should also include information about the technology platforms, staffing model, curriculum, and instructional materials they will employ.

It is Valley Collaborative’s understanding that the only time our school district would be allowed to choose the remote learning model for the upcoming school year is if a Valley staff/student who was present in one of our buildings tested positive for COVID19. In this circumstance and based on guidance issued by the CDC, local departments of health could require a building to close for up to 14 days. It is also our understanding, per the [“Protocols for responding to COVID-19 scenarios”](#) issued on July 19, 2020, DESE must be consulted before a final decision is made to close in-person, on-site learning. (We assume Valley Collaborative would only close its facilities and offer our remote learning model for all students under the direction of the Department of Health, and/or a Governor's Executive Order, the guidance of Commissioner Reilly, and/or the direction of Valley Collaborative’s Board of Directors).

If Valley Collaborative is mandated to implement its remote learning model, it is our understanding that students and families/guardians, in coordination with our dedicated team and the student’s sending district, will be given the option of any of the three models of learning: in-person full-time learning, full-time remote learning, or a hybrid learning model. Student learning time requirements apply to Valley’s remote learning model.

Below please find information regarding Valley’s (1) technology platforms, (2) staffing models, and (3) curriculum and instructional materials.

- (1) Valley uses a variety of technology platforms to engage students, remotely and in-person. For video conferencing, we deploy a combination of Zoom and Google Meet. We use Google Chat for IM (Instant Messaging) and Google Classroom for digital classroom/curriculum management. To administratively coordinate and safeguard our technology use, Valley uses the Google Admin Console for the remote management of

Chromebooks and Cisco Meraki for the remote management of iPads. Valley Collaborative is in the process of establishing a state of the art Virtual Classroom for each school for students in remote learning.

- (2) In addition to Valley's pre-Covid-19 staffing model, additional staff have been and will continue to be hired to support remote learning, cleaning, technology, and Valley's health department. Valley's in-person learning staffing ratios for academics, on average, are between 1 staff per every 5 students and 1 staff per every 1 student, depending on the student's needs and the program. Valley's therapeutic ratios are staffed according to a student's IEP Grid - specifically the A Grid (Consultation) and C Grid (Direct Services). In order to maintain our current staffing models in the event of COVID19 community spread, we have posted "anticipated openings" for all of our Department of Elementary and Secondary Education positions for each of our schools.
- (3) Valley curriculum will continue to be customized per the students IEP service delivery grid, as well as aligned to the Massachusetts State Standards. Time on learning requirements will be adhered to in all learning models: in-person, remote, and hybrid. Students will be provided with all necessary resources, materials, and technology required for them to access their customized educational program according to their IEP, regardless of the learning model.

Additionally, Valley Collaborative has considered all DESE guidances released (to date) and provides the following information regarding Valley Collaborative's Remote Learning Model:

- Valley's student information system (ASPEN) is used to track all students' attendance/participation and will do so within each learning model. Valley developed and implemented last spring the use of a new ASPEN attendance code for remote learning attendance/participation (C). Students' attendance for in-person learning will be captured as present (P). The absent code (A) will be used to track in person attendance. We are currently in the process of creating an attendance code to indicate if a student is absent from remote learning. In addition, Valley also documents tardies (T) and early dismissals (D).
- Valley has aligned all of its remote academic work to state standards and IEP Grids.
- Educators are working in their respective teams to develop calibrated grading rubrics for remote learning in accordance with state standards.
- The process and calendar for progress reports remains the same as in-person learning, regardless of the learning model.
- Valley's method for teachers and administrators to regularly communicate with students' parents and guardians, including providing interpretation and translation services to limited English proficient parents and guardians, remains the same as in-person learning, regardless of the learning model. In collaboration with sending school districts, Valley offers interpretive and translation services through Lexikeet in order to provide

interpretation and translation services to students and their families, per a student’s IEP and the results of “Parent/Guardian Return To School Survey”.

Valley Collaborative’s Remote Learning Model of Reopening

Valley Elementary School, Valley Middle School (Alternative & Transitional Programming), and Valley Transitional High School (Alternative & Transitional Programming)

	In-Person Learning	Remote Learning	Family Choice Hybrid Learning
Student 1	X		
Student 2		X	
Student 3 (Week A)	X		X
Student 3 (Week B)		X	X

Family Choice

At this time, we are asking Valley families to commit to their preferred learning model as described above by August 21, 2020. Families will need to decide if they would like to send their student:

1. In-Person Learning Model - full time, 5 days a week, in-person programming
2. Hybrid Learning Model- one week of in-person programming and one week off of remote learning
3. Remote Learning Model - fully remote, no in-person services

There may be circumstances in which, after deciding that their children should start the school year learning remotely, parents decide they would like their children to attend school in person. However, there will likely be health and safety considerations that require planning (such as maintaining appropriate distancing in the classroom), and as such, parents/caregivers should anticipate a reasonable waiting period before students are able to change from remote to in-person learning. To comply with health and safety requirements and to appropriately plan for the transition of a student from remote to in-person learning, Valley will accept students back to full time in person learning as soon as possible but no more than three to four weeks from date of request. During this time period, teaching and learning must continue uninterrupted for that student.

Out-of-school time plan

Valley Collaborative prides itself on its student centered approach to providing wraparound services. Our dedicated educators, therapists, and staff consistently go above and beyond to

ensure our students are fully supported. As we are an out-of-district special education public day program and our students reside in multiple cities and towns across the Commonwealth and New Hampshire, at this time we are not offering before and after school programming, additional student supports through the “21st Century Learning” program, or weekend programming. As always, if students and/or families need additional supports, please contact a Valley Collaborative Principal and they will assist with coordinating services in your community.

- [Jennifer Bergeron](#) and [Heather Mackay](#), Valley Elementary School
- [Nicole Noska](#), Valley Middle School and Valley Transitional High School (Transitional Programming)
- [Julie Fielding](#), Valley Middle School and Valley Transitional High School (Alternative Programming)

Student Supports and Professional Learning

Valley’s leadership team has developed [Valley’s Parent/Guardian Return to School Survey](#) to support school reopening, sourcing data from families and students regarding planning, scheduling, and needs for social emotional supports and interventions. Valley surveyed it’s families again on August 14, 2020 for families to indicate their [Fall Learning Model Selection](#). On August 21, 2020, Valley will be surveying its families with a more comprehensive survey [Parent/Guardian Fall Return To School survey](#) to receive feedback for its summer in-person programming as well as plan for the continuation of in-person programming for the Fall.

Safety, Wellness, and Social Emotional Supports

Valley Collaborative’s team of therapists have a plethora of expertise to provide safety, wellness, and social emotional supports to our highly vulnerable students through a variety of therapeutic delivery models and instructional practices.

Planning and Instruction

Valley Collaborative’s team of dedicated educators differentiate curriculum according to student’s IEPs to meet their goals and objectives. In addition to our academic curriculum, Valley Collaborative’s team of educators are incorporating specific lessons on general information related to COVID-19 from the CDC as well as content to ensure students are familiar with changes to their regular school practice.

Assessment

Educators and service providers must collect data and use this data to monitor the student’s progress to develop Progress Reports. During periods of remote learning, educators, service providers, parents, and students will review a student’s IEP and identify the types of data that can

be collected from the student, family, and home environment. Staff will reimagine their roles in a hybrid or remote context, e.g., by using a tracking sheet to collect data from student videos, interviewing parents and students, or using assessments.

As we return to in-person services and instruction, the Collaborative and sending school districts will plan to address the backlog of assessments and meetings while simultaneously addressing the need to maintain timelines for annual review Team meetings and evaluations for students who are newly referred and/or due for an evaluation.

Intervention

Valley Collaborative is an out-of-district public special education day program specializing in trauma sensitive therapeutic practices. Our dedicated and skilled staff includes clinical staff specializing in therapeutic interventions. Our team of social workers provided support and resources to families who identified the need for food assistance during this time. Additionally, the survey allowed families to identify the need for technology assistance and hardware, as well as their need for training in the areas of technology, social emotional supports, and expectations for structured learning time. Training will be offered to families at the beginning of the school year and throughout the school year, as needed.

Academic Calendar

Please visit the following link for Valley Collaborative's [2020-2021 Revised Academic Calendar](#)

Health and Safety Requirements

Valley Collaborative confidently certifies that it is in full compliance with the health and safety requirements issued by DESE in the below communications.

- [Initial Fall School Reopening Guidance](#)
- [Comprehensive Special Education Guidance](#)
- [Protocols for responding to COVID-19 scenarios in school, on the bus, or in community settings](#)
- [Fall Reopening Facilities and Operations Guidance](#)
- [Guidance for Courses Requiring Additional Safety Considerations for Fall 2020](#)
- [Career/Vocational Technical Education Reopening Guidelines](#)

- [Fall Reopening Transportation Guidance](#)

Staying Home if Sick

As part of the social compact of re-opening, students and staff must stay home if they are feeling sick or have any symptom associated with COVID-19. This means that Valley will need to have enhanced protocols in place for managing staff and student absences. [Prevent Getting Sick - CDC.gov](#)

Face Coverings and Masks

Face coverings or masks covering the nose and mouth must be worn by students (required for grade 2 students and up and strongly encouraged for kindergarten and grade 1), staff, visitors, and vendors, with exceptions only for those students or staff for whom it is not safe to do so due to age, medical conditions, or other considerations as well as during meals and mask breaks . In cases in which face coverings or masks are not possible, strict social distancing of a 6 feet is required, when feasible. Parents will be responsible for providing students with face coverings or masks. Valley will have backup disposable masks available for students who need them. Staff may choose to wear their own mask or one provided by Valley. Please see Valley Collaborative's [Masks/Face Covering](#) protocol.

Frequent Hand Washing and Hand Sanitizing

All students and staff must engage in frequent handwashing, including upon arrival, before and after meals, after bathroom use, after coughing or sneezing, and before dismissal. Protocols have been established for effective handwashing in which individuals use soap and water to wash all surfaces of their hands for at least 20 seconds, wait for visible lather, rinse thoroughly, and dry with an individual disposable towel. If handwashing is not available, hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent ethanol or at least 70 percent isopropanol content can be used. Please see Valley Collaborative's [Hand Washing Protocol](#).

Physical Distancing

All students and staff must maintain a social distance of a minimum of 3 feet but a preferred 6 feet to the greatest extent possible. Desks must be spaced at least 3 feet apart and facing the same direction, and protocols have been developed to maintain this distance when students are entering and exiting the building and moving through the school (including to and within restrooms) when feasible. Please see Valley Collaborative's [Student entry and dismissal protocol](#) as well as [Social Distancing Protocol](#). During meals, mask breaks, and other times when masks are not worn, 6 feet is the minimum distance allowed.

Identification of High-Priority Students for In-Person Services

On June 17, 2020, Valley Collaborative's Board of Directors' Executive Committee voted to allow Valley Collaborative to begin providing in-person services to students beginning on August 3, 2020. On August 6, 2020, Valley Collaborative's Board of Directors voted to allow Valley Collaborative to continue to provide in-person services for the Fall with students returning on September 16, 2020 (170 day school year) and staff on September 1, 2020 (180 day school year). Please see attached [Valley Collaborative's revised 2020-2021 Academic Calendar](#).

Valley Collaborative has worked with each of its sending districts to identify which students the sending districts, in conjunction with its families, have determined will attend Fall in-person services, which students will continue with a remote learning model, and which students would prefer a hybrid model of learning.

Instructional Groupings Requirements

All instructional grouping have been recalculated in accordance with the numerous guidances issued to date by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education as they relate to class sizes and square footage. Signage has been posted outside all classrooms with maximum occupancy and class ratios.

Classroom set up and movement within the building

Valley Collaborative has created cohorts (e.g. self-contained groups) of students wherever possible and will limit the cohort from interaction with others. This means that in the event that there is a positive COVID-19 case in the school, fewer individuals will have interacted with that person. Students will be grouped in self-contained classes with the same teacher and students throughout each day, when feasible. Student desks are now spaced 3-6 feet apart and are facing forward. Additional space in school buildings will be accessed in order to spread out classrooms if and when necessary. Classes will be held outside to the extent possible and when feasible.

[Movement within building](#): Arrows have been posted on the floor to indicate flow of movement within the building. Floor markings have been placed to indicate social distancing. A plan has been developed and implemented for safely moving students in and out their classrooms while maintaining 3-6 feet of social distance when feasible; necessary student access to common areas, including bathrooms, is managed by staff to avoid crowding.

Valley Collaborative has established clear procedures for student entry and dismissal from the building including a plan for traffic, drop-off, and pick-up that complies with social distancing guidelines. Please see Valley's [Student Entry and Dismissal Protocol](#)

Meals are offered in classrooms, following appropriate food safety guidelines and taking specific precautions for food allergies. Please see [Classroom Meal Practices](#) protocol.

The number of visitors inside of our building will be reduced to promote the safety of our students and staff. Visitors will be permitted in the building by appointment only during the hours of 10:00am to 1:00pm or prior to/after student arrival/dismissal. Visitors will be permitted anytime in the event of an emergency. Please contact your student's principal to schedule any necessary visits.

- [Jennifer Bergeron](#) and [Heather Mackay](#), Valley Elementary School
- [Nicole Noska](#), Valley Middle School and Valley Transitional High School (Transitional Programming)
- [Julie Fielding](#), Valley Middle School and Valley Transitional High School (Alternative Programming)

Covid-19 Response

Valley Collaborative has designated a COVID-19 Response Team responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns. This team includes:

- [Dr. Chris A. Scott](#), Executive Director
- [Jessica Scalzi](#), Lead Nurse
- [Glen Costello](#), Asst. Principal & Safety Committee Lead
- [Nicole Noska](#), Principal
- [Jennifer Bergeron](#), Principal
- [Heather MacKay](#), Principal
- [Sandra Morency](#), Custodial Manager.

Valley Collaborative has developed [Protocols Related to Managing Program Closures](#) due to COVID-19 and staff and student absences.

Valley Collaborative has ensured its permission forms include relevant medical information and comprehensive contact information to easily reach families in case of concerns. Valley Collaborative has reviewed medical information submitted by parents/guardians and has reached out to the parents/guardians of high-risk children to encourage them to discuss with their healthcare provider whether the program is a safe option for their child, if additional protections are necessary, and what supports can be offered to best help their child understand and adhere to the health and safety requirements.

Families are asked to:

- Perform a wellness check on their child each morning at home before determining if the child should go to school. Please see [Parent Letter 7.16.20, COVID-19 Symptom Checklist](#).
- Keep their child home if they suspect their child is ill.
- Ensure their child arrives at school wearing a face covering and ideally has an extra face covering on hand.
- Follow school policies on drop off and pick up and recognize that parent access to the building will be strictly limited.
- Be sure the school has updated contact information in the event the child needs to be sent home. Please see [Valley's Parent/Guardian Return to School Survey](#).

Protective Equipment

Valley Collaborative has purchased and procured the appropriate protective equipment to meet the health and safety needs of students and staff.

All Valley Collaborative staff will be provided with appropriate protective equipment in accordance with CDC guidelines.

Transportation Protocols:

Valley Collaborative has worked with its sending districts to ensure that families are provided with transportation options that meet their needs. When Valley students are transported during the school day to off site locations in Valley owned vans, there will be no more than 4 individuals per vehicle (one person per row including a driver) following the DESE guidance regarding transportation.

Education and Training

All Valley Collaborative staff have been fully trained on all relevant procedures as it relates to providing in-person services to students with disabilities. Valley Collaborative has determined what training may be needed for families of students with disabilities via [Valley's Parent/Guardian Return to School Survey](#), initially disseminated on July 20, 2020 and the [Parent/Guardian Fall Return To School survey](#) which will be disseminated on August 21, 2020.

In addition, Valley Collaborative's would like to share with its families the following implemented protocols.

- [Student Entry/Dismissal Protocol](#)
- [Physical Restraint Protocol](#)

- [Mask/Face Covering Protocol](#)
- [Hand Washing Protocol](#)
- [Everyday Preventive Actions](#)

Education for Students on Safety Protocols

Students have been and will continue to be provided with training through direct instruction and/or embedded content in lessons and activities, as developmentally appropriate. Students have been and will continue to be explicitly trained on how to use protective equipment, as appropriate. Social stories, visual cues, and other appropriate developmental strategies have been and will continue to be used to reinforce new concepts and protocols.

We hope that you find the reopening plan helpful and informative. Please reach out to program and/or district staff if you have any further questions or concerns. We are here to ensure your student is able to access the highest quality program possible during this challenging time and in the safest way possible.