

### **A. Executive Summary**

The intention of the Fall Reopening Plan for the Judge Rotenberg Center is to provide in-person education services to all enrolled students. As a residential program, the Judge Rotenberg Center has not closed at all during the current pandemic. This plan is informed by guidance from the Governor, DESE, and experiences over the past several months continuing to provide in-person services both at individual residences and more recently at the school buildings. Governor Baker's state guidelines for re-opening schools in Massachusetts includes the following action steps which are integral to the Judge Rotenberg Center reopening plan.

- All students will wear face masks in school, if they are able to do so
- All students and staff will stay three to six feet apart
- Students should be organized by cohort to minimize interaction

### **B. Example of Weekly Letter from Executive Director to the Community**

Good morning. I hope all is well and everyone is remaining healthy. It is more important than ever that everyone is following the guidelines put in place. Unfortunately, not everyone is and some communities have seen an uptick in cases. As I have said from the very beginning, if we start to see an increase in positive cases in either staff or clients, we will need to take a step back. At this time we are ready to move forward to our next steps for reopening, knowing that we may have to hold off if necessary.

School aged students:

Effective Monday, August 3, 2020, all school aged students will be attending the day program Monday through Friday, remaining in classrooms with their residential cohort. No more than 10 students will be in a classroom and desks have been removed in smaller classrooms to allow for proper social distancing. Masks must be worn at all times for staff and for those students who can tolerate it. Proper hygiene and sanitation will take place throughout the day and a deep cleaning will continue to be done each evening. Although we continue to plan evening and weekend activities at the residences, unfortunately, community outings will still not be allowed. As a reminder, visits for school aged students must take place at the school building, limited to four people, and are not guaranteed based on multiple factors. Please make the arrangements through the treatment team and confirm the visit the morning of. Multi day visits may not be accommodated and home visits continue to be unapproved and against recommendations.

Effective August 1, there is a new travel order in effect in Massachusetts. Because we have so many students and clients from across the country it is important to update you on this. Please review below.

Travel Order: Starting August 1, all visitors and Massachusetts residents returning home, including students returning to campuses for the fall semester, must fill out a "Massachusetts Travel Form" and quarantine for 14 days unless they are coming from a COVID-19 lower risk state or they can produce a negative COVID-19 test result administered no more than 72 hours prior to arriving in Massachusetts, or they are included in one of the other, limited exemptions. Individuals who get a test must remain in quarantine until they receive their negative test results. Failure to comply may result in a \$500 fine per day. Travelers are exempt from this requirement if they are coming from a state that has been designated by the Department of Public Health as a lower risk COVID-19 state or fall into another narrow exemption category. Based on current public health data, those lower risk states will include: New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Maine, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire and Hawaii. Traveler exemptions include people passing through the state, people commuting across state lines for work, people traveling to Massachusetts for medical treatment, people complying with military orders, or people traveling to work in federally designated critical infrastructure sectors (essential services).

The decision to quarantine a student or client is based on multiple factors, including what is dictated by the state and will be determined on a case by case basis. No visitation will be allowed to a student or client if they have been quarantined due to exposure. Please do not visit if you or a family member is ill.

I completely understand that some of you are getting frustrated with the rules, but please know, that we are doing our best to keep everyone safe. To keep our students safe and healthy we must ensure that proper protocols are followed. Thank you all and if you have any questions, please contact the treatment team.

Glenda P. Crookes

Executive Director

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### **C. In-person learning model:**

Our plan for the fall will be to continue to deliver in-person education services. Many modifications have been made to meet health and safety requirements issued by DESE. Through these modifications learning environments may look different this fall than previously, however in-person learning will continue to take place. All staff and students are required to wear masks while at the school buildings. All students will come to the two school buildings Monday-Friday. Students will be grouped by residential cohort to limit the amount of close interaction among large groups of people. The school day, to start, will be modified to a 9:30-2:30, with the intent to increase that over time, schedule to reduce the amount of time spent in the school buildings. Student cohorts will be provided access to common areas such as outside areas, physical education areas, and reward areas on a schedule conducive to social distancing guidelines, with cleaning in between use. Class sizes have been reduced and classrooms have been modified to allow for at least 6 feet of space between desks. In the event of a presence of

COVID-19, students may return to their assigned residence and receive in-person educational services from a Special Education Teacher at the residence until safe to return to the school.

**D. Hybrid learning model:**

All students enrolled at the Judge Rotenberg Center will continue in-person learning as “High needs students” to “ensure effective accommodations”, as classified in the DESE guidance to all schools. The hybrid learning model is not appropriate for the students at the Judge Rotenberg Center at this time.

**E. Remote learning Model:**

All students enrolled at the Judge Rotenberg Center will continue in-person learning as “High needs students” to “ensure effective accommodations”, as classified in the DESE guidance to all schools. The remote learning model is not appropriate for the students at the Judge Rotenberg Center at this time.

**F. Out-of-school time plan:**

Time spent at the residences during the evenings and on the weekends will remain supervised by Judge Rotenberg Center staff at all times. Students will remain with their residential cohorts for all activities and continue to follow health and safety guidelines including social distancing, wearing face coverings, and frequent hand washing.

**G. Student supports and professional learning:**

**a. Safety, wellness, social emotional supports**

**Masks** – All staff and students will wear masks when in the school buildings.

**Social distancing** – All classrooms arranged to provide at least 6 feet between desks to support social distancing while in the classrooms.

**Lunch** – Lunch will be provided in the classrooms as opposed to the cafeteria.

**Outside time** – All students will be scheduled outside time at the day program at least an every other day and daily at the residence, weather permitting. Outside time schedules will support maintaining social distancing guidelines while keeping students within their residential cohorts.

**COVID -19 Guidelines for Handling Illness** – In the event of the presence of suspected COVID-19 symptoms/positive tests, students may be educated at their assigned residences until safe to return to the school environment.

**Transportation-** Students will transport to and from the school buildings in vans and buses by residential cohort.

**Restroom Safety-** Restroom use monitored to maintain social distancing guidelines and cleaned between uses.

**Physical Education-** The gym areas will be used by one residential cohort at a time, with scheduled time in-between groups to clean the used area. Additionally, outdoor space will continue to be utilized for physical education participation when possible.

**Handwashing-** Staff and students will be encouraged to frequently wash hands.

### **b. Planning and instruction**

Students will continue to be provided curriculum and instruction on an individual basis according to individual IEP and performance level. Instructional groups may look different due to classroom grouping by residence, but curriculum and instruction will otherwise continue as previously conducted.

### **c. Assessment**

State assessments will continue to be monitored and the school will comply with directives established while prioritizing health and safety for all. Within school assessments will continue to run as scheduled while maintaining modified classroom assignments by residential cohort and in adherence to social distancing guidelines.

### **d. Intervention**

Any and all necessary interventions to include academic and behavioral needs will be addressed with a prioritization on the health and safety for all.

### **e. School calendar with start date and PD days**

The Judge Rotenberg Education Center is a residential school program opened 365 days per year. The school day will be modified to start to limit daily time spent at the school to a schedule of 9:30-2:30, Monday-Friday.

### **H. Other:**

The Judge Rotenberg Center will continue to keep parents and stakeholders updated with regular updates as to the status of proceedings within the school related to the reopening process.

### **I. Certification of health and safety requirements:**

Health & Safety Area	How requirement will be satisfied
Masks	All students and staff will wear masks. Mask breaks will be offered outside when possible and physical distancing may be maintained.
Physical Distancing	Students organized into cohorts by residence. Classrooms modified to reduce class size and maintain 6 feet between desks.
Screening	Health screenings completed for all staff before each shift. Screenings completed for all students daily by nursing staff.

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Handwashing/Sanitizing Stations	Multiple sanitizing stations installed throughout school buildings.
Inventory of PPE Supplies	Supply of masks, gloves, and face shields maintained at the school buildings.
Medical Isolation Area	Student bedrooms at residences to be used as medical isolation areas in addition to nursing office.
Food	Lunch to be served to students in the classrooms. No communal use of the cafeteria.
Cleaning Supplies	Sufficient amount of cleaning supplies maintained to regularly clean used areas.
Capacity	Classroom assignments, schedules, and transitions all monitored by school supervisors to maintain appropriate limits.