

January 20, 2021

Dear Early Head Start Families:

As you know, COVID-19 continues to impact nearly every aspect of our lives. Unfortunately, cases are trending upward nationwide and that trend has impacted us as well. Early Learning Center staff and families have reported exposure, testing, and quarantines over the past few weeks. We have also seen more young children, testing positive for the virus. While our staff wear masks throughout the day, and follow health and safety protocols, children younger than age 2 are not required to wear masks while in care. We want to continue to work in partnership with you to preserve everyone's health and safety.

Out of an abundance of caution, we have decided to **further extend our remote services for an additional week, and re-open Early Head Start for in-person instruction on Monday, February 1, 2021.** Early Head staff will continue to reach out to you to provide virtual services for your child, and supports for you and your family. We will also continue to deliver meals, diapers, and other supports during this time.

As it has been from day one of this crisis, safety is our foremost concern, and we continue to do everything in our power to protect our clients, staff, and community.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to:

For questions	For health-related questions
<b>Sharon Hutchinson-Jones, MSW, MA Ed</b> Senior Director Early Head Start 518.292.5539 Sharon.Hutchinson-Jones@nrfs.org	<b>Jane Brown, LPN</b> Associate Manager, Health and Nutrition Early Learning Center 518.292.5530 Jane.Brown@nrfs.org

Or you may contact me directly:

Kristen Youmans  
 Chief Education Officer & Superintendent  
 Northern Rivers Family of Services  
 518.369.6913  
 Kristen.Youmans@nrfs.org

We thank you for your cooperation and assistance in keeping our Early Learning Center a safe place for all of our students, teachers, and staff.

Cordially,



Kristen Youmans  
 Chief Education Officer & Superintendent