

As coronavirus has hit our community, we want to assure you that Northshore Senior Center is working hard to do all we can to keep our members, volunteers, instructors and staff safe. Please see below for our most current response plan to the coronavirus threat, with the understanding that the plan will continue to evolve as the situation changes and we have more information. Please feel free to share this information with others we may not have connected with, and also please contact us if you have any questions. For general information on keeping yourself safe while out and about in the community, please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention-treatment.html>

Northshore Senior Center

Coronavirus (Covid-19) Response Plan

Draft as of 3.1.2020

With Coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreaks down in our immediate region, including a nursing facility frequently used by NSC members and often serviced by NSC transportation, it is clear that NSC members/participants, volunteers and staff are likely to be highly impacted by this probable pandemic. As seniors and those with compromised immune systems and respiratory illness seem to be the most highly impacted populations, our response is of critical importance. The below plan is intended to help ensure three key imperatives are met:

1. Members, program participants, contractors, volunteers and staff remain safe and healthy.
2. Control the spread of the virus within NSC and our community at large.
3. Critical programs and services remain available to the greatest extent possible.
4. Long-term financial impact to the organization is mitigated.

Aspects of this response plan will continue to be modified as the situation evolves and as new information is available.

Mitigating Risk

To help prevent the spread of disease, Northshore Senior Center has embarked upon a public communication campaign aimed at encouraging good hygiene including hand-washing, minimizing touching of the face, and covering nose/mouth when coughing or sneezing. This campaign is being initiated via posters and flyers in our facilities, social media and email communication.

Additional hand sanitizer stations have been installed in our facilities (and vehicles) and staff have will be asked to wipe down door handles, faucets and other high touch items with antiseptic wipes at least 2 times each day.

Health professionals have informed Northshore Senior Center that individuals with existing respiratory illness, including individuals using oxygen, are likely the most at-risk for serious complications from the Covid-19. Northshore Senior Center staff will be reaching out to individuals we are aware have existing respiratory illness to advise that they remain isolated from the general public as much as possible, including removing themselves from Northshore Senior Center programming.

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Illness amongst members, staff, volunteers, instructors, etc.

Effective immediately, all individuals exhibiting signs of respiratory illness will be asked to stay home and away from Northshore Senior Center programs and facilities. Any individuals exhibiting signs of respiratory illness including coughing, mild diarrhea or fever will be asked to return home until such time as their illness has resolved or until such time as they have tested negative for Covid-19. Signage will be posted at all locations indicating that people experiencing any signs of respiratory illness should stay home.

Volunteers:

Volunteers experiencing any type of fever, diarrhea, sneezing or coughing will be asked to stay home, even volunteers who are just mildly ill and may still be generally able to work. Volunteers who have a weakened immune system and/or who are otherwise concerned about risk of infection should also stay home.

Volunteers should contact either their Program Lead or NSC staff to inform that they will not be available for their assigned shift as soon as possible, so that all attempts can be made to backfill open shifts.

Instructors:

Instructors experiencing any type of fever, diarrhea, sneezing or coughing will be asked to stay home, even instructors who are just mildly ill and may still be generally able to work. Instructors who have a weakened immune system and/or who are otherwise concerned about risk of infection should also stay home. Instructors should make all reasonable attempts to contact participants in their class to inform students that class will be cancelled due to illness. Should instructors not have the capacity to inform students, they should let NSC staff know as soon as possible so that staff can do their best to reach out and keep people from coming to the facility unnecessarily.

Members/Program Participants:

Members/program participants experiencing any type of fever, diarrhea, sneezing or coughing will be asked to stay home. Individuals who have a weakened immune system and/or who are otherwise concerned about risk of infection should also stay home. Please see below area on Programs and Services for further information regarding access to critical services.

Outside vendors and other contractors:

For outside vendors and/or contractors we have regular contact with, staff will make all attempts to communicate our current policy of staying away from facilities and off-site programs if demonstrating any signs of respiratory illness. Signage will also be in place at all facilities reiterating this policy.

Programs and Services

As of 3/1, Northshore Senior Center has no intention to close or limit programs or services. However, we intend to closely monitor the evolving situation and may decide to change course at any point in time. In addition to guidance we receive from local/regional/national health authorities, considerations such as staff and volunteer availability and contractor requirements will factor into our decision making-process. Should there be any changes to our regular program offerings, we will do our best to notify members/participants, staff and volunteers in a timely manner following the same procedure as established during weather emergencies.

Should staffing or other considerations limit our ability to provide a full range of services, our resources will shift to focus on providing those services that are most critical to the health and wellness of our members including services such as Meals on Wheels and medical transportation (for example). This may involve a gradual closing of specific programs that are considered non-vital, or may be a swift closure of all non-critical programs depending on circumstance. Staff and volunteers may be deployed to provide services not currently offered by Northshore Senior Center but deemed most necessary given the health climate. This might include asking staff to pick up prescription medications or packaging additional meals for delivery to seniors who are on voluntary quarantine.

Decisions related to elimination of special events that are NOT geared towards primarily towards seniors and/or people with disabilities will be made based on a similar assessment of risk and capacity to execute successfully given staffing and other resources.