

Empowering Independence

March 25, 2021

CLW DHILS - SPECIAL EDITION (VOLUME 33)

Governor Baker's COVID-19 Updates

NOW: Phase 4, Step 1



Reopening

- Indoor/outdoor stadiums
 - Arenas
 - Ballparks
- 12% capacity limit



Public/Event Settings (EX: restaurant, store, etc.)

- ⇒ 100 people *or less* (inside)
- ⇒ 150 people *or less* (outside)

Private Settings (EX: your house/apartment, your backyard)

- ⇒ 10 people *or less* (inside)
- ⇒ 25 people *or less* (outside)

Other changes:

- Dance floors — only okay at weddings and other events
- Overnight summer camps — open
- Exhibition/convention halls — open

New Travel Advisory

Massachusetts (MA) *TRAVEL ORDER* is now an **ADVISORY**.

If you travel out of MA for *more than* 24 hours (1 day) please:

- Quarantine for **10 days** after arriving in MA

DON'T need to Quarantine if:

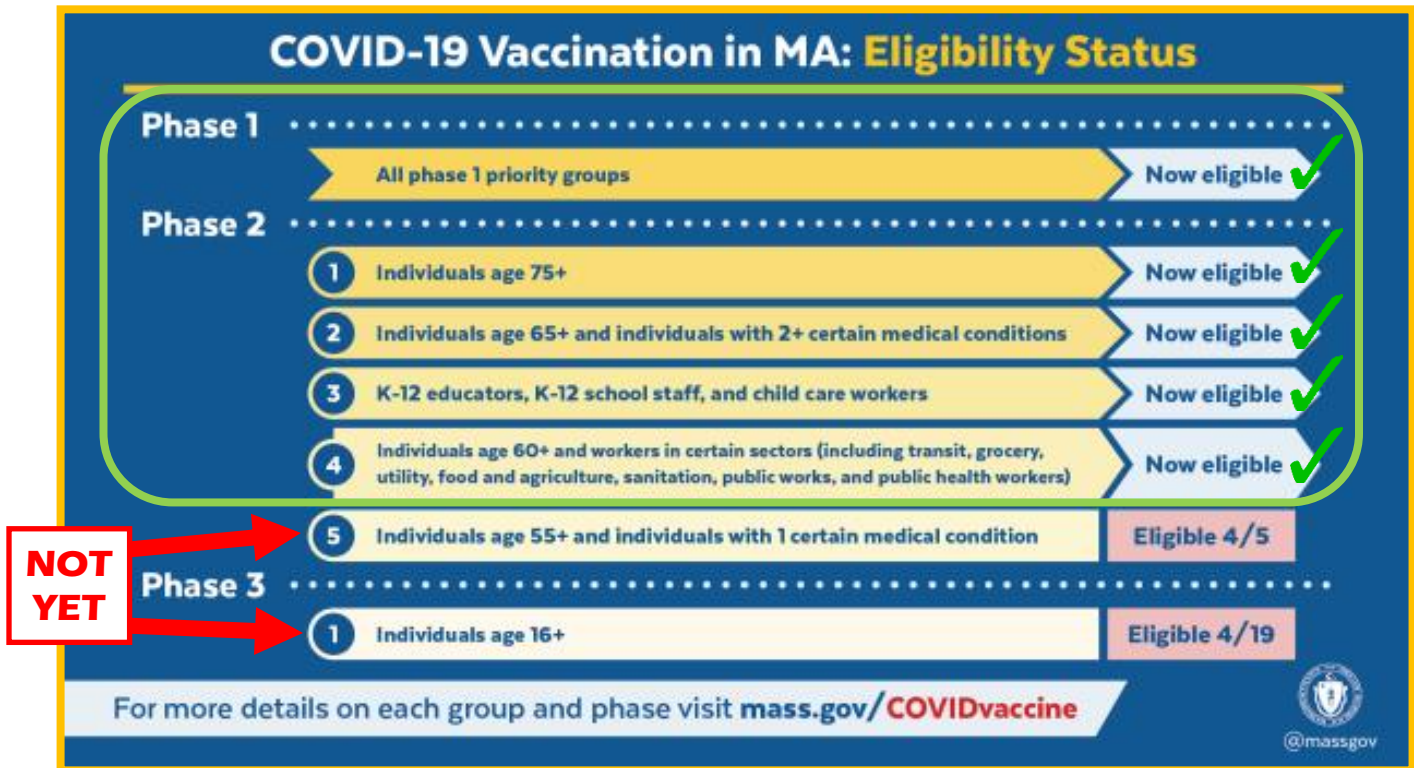
- You're out of MA for *less than* 24 hours (1 day)
- You had a negative COVID-19 test *up to 72 hours* (3 days) before arriving in MA
- You're an essential worker commuting to/from work
- You're fully vaccinated



Watch the Governor's update here:
<https://www.mass.gov/governor-updates>



Vaccine: *Who can get it now?*



NEW GROUP CAN GET THE VACCINE

- Age 60 or older
- Certain workers [Click [here](#) to see a list.]

What Phase am I in? Find out here: <https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine>

Starting April 5th, 2021 — *a new group will be added:*

- People who are 55 or older
- People with 1 certain medical condition (for a list of conditions click [here](#)).



Vaccination Phase 3:

- NOT in Phase 1 or Phase 2? Starting April 19, 2021—the vaccine will be available to **EVERYONE** who wants it.

Trust the Facts! Vaccine safety.

- Find out more here: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/trust-the-facts-get-the-vax>

Still have questions about the Vaccine? Talk with your doctor!

Need COVID-19 information in a different language? Click [here](#)!

How do I get a Vaccine Appointment?

AT MASS VACCINATION SITE (Gillette Stadium, Natick Mall, etc.)

- Sign up/Pre-register here: <https://vaccinesignup.mass.gov/#/>
- **Be patient**—you will need to wait a few weeks for your turn
- When it's your turn to make an appointment, they will contact you
- You have 24 hours to accept/book the appointment



AT OTHER VACCINATION SITES

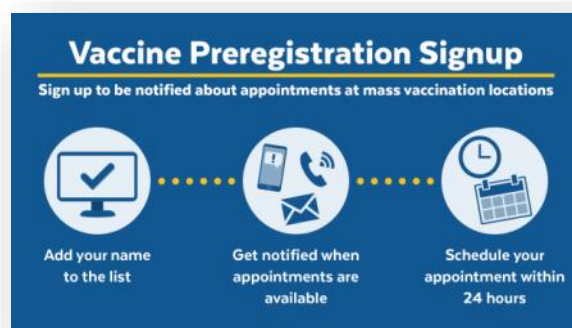
- General Vaccination Sites: health care locations, pharmacies and grocery stores
- Local Vaccination Sites: May only be open to town *residents* (check first!)
 - Search for appointments here: <https://vaxfinder.mass.gov/>



No computer or internet access?
Call 2-1-1 for help.

What will I need to sign up/pre-register?

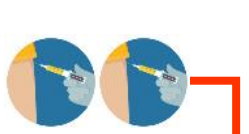
- Name
- Address
- Date of birth
- How should they get in touch with you?
Email, text, or phone/VP call?
- Are you eligible? (living situations, medical conditions, occupations)



When are You Fully Vaccinated?

Moderna:

- 2 shots
- 28 days apart

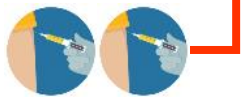


2 weeks after second shot
= PROTECTED



Pfizer:

- 2 shots
- 21 days apart



2 weeks after one/only shot
= PROTECTED



Continued to follow
guidelines (wear mask,
wash hands, etc.)



Johnson & Johnson/Janssen:

- 1 shot



Less than 2 weeks since your 1-dose shot or waiting for second dose? You are NOT fully protected.

COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility VLOG

An Update on Covid-19 Vaccine Eligibility in Massachusetts as of March 22, 2021

David Del Pizzo
MCDHH Referral Supervisor

Update on the COVID-19 vaccine eligibility timeline and vaccine eligibility as of March 22nd.

Watch VLOG here: <https://fb.watch/4q6gkz3gu5/>

Read transcript here: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qDdBOTpm5Ur6WbjKOuYWsE5FUaZJycvWdnSy2-sB8dc/edit?usp=sharing>

Virtual AA meetings in ASL

SARDI Program

www.sardiprogram.com/dodameetings/

- Want to lead a Deaf AA or NA meeting?
- Need help joining a 12 step AA or NA meeting?



Contact:

meetingskype@hotmail.com

Information about Al-Anon meetings

- Contact: DeafRecoveryAZ@gmail.com

Other resources:

- <https://aa-dc.org/asl>
- https://archive.aa-intergroup.org/directory_dhoh.php

Denied Accommodations?

LeWana Clark is working with DLC (Disability Law Center) to learn about the experiences of people living in Massachusetts who are dDeafDB.

Have you or someone you know had problems getting access to a sign language interpreter or CART services from doctor's offices, hospitals, courts, police departments, or other service providers? Have you been denied other accommodations?

If you or someone you know would like to talk with her about being denied an accommodation, please join a scheduled ZOOM meeting:

- Tuesday, March 30, 2021 at 9am
- Friday, April 9, 2021 at 11am
- Thursday, April 15, 2021 at 2pm
- Monday, April 19, 2021 at 3pm

Zoom Meeting ID: 824 975 2710

Watch the VLOG: [here](#)



Questions?

Email LeWana at:

drlewanaclark@gmail.com

DHILS Deaf Skills Trainer (P/T 20 hours)

Provide Independent Living skills training, peer counseling, resources and advocacy to Deaf consumers.



- Part-time – 20 hours.
- Fluent in ASL (required).

See the full job description and requirements [here](#).

Questions? Contact Deb Olson at: dolson@centerlw.org

Zoom Guide

CLW DHILS made a guide for using Zoom. Step-by-step instructions and pictures show how to:

- Download the Zoom app
- Join/Leave a meeting
- Gallery View vs. Speaker View
- Pin a screen



WANT A COPY? Contact Denise Paro at: dparo@centerlw.org or 508-556-1600 (VP)

NOTE: let us know which one(s) you want! (Computer/Cell Phone/iPad)

Protect Yourself. Protect Your Family.

When it's your turn,
Get the Vax

GET VAXED

- The vaccine is safe and has been thoroughly tested.
- When it is your turn, get the COVID vaccine to protect yourself and your loved ones.
- Even if you have had COVID-19, you should still get vaccinated.

IT'S FREE

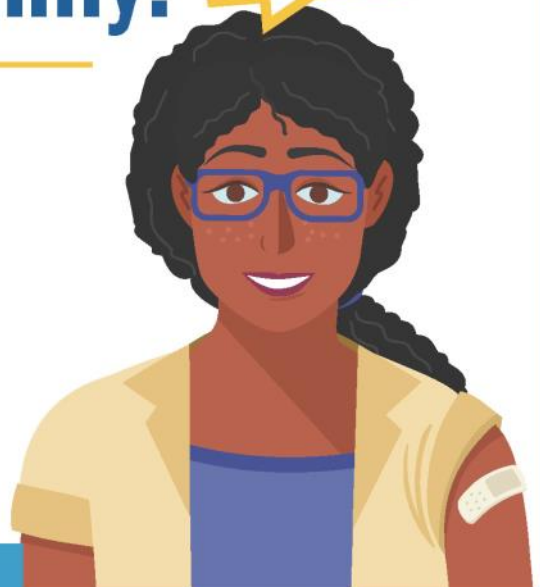
- The vaccine is free for everyone.
- No insurance necessary
- No ID required

DOSES

- Most vaccines require 2 doses to be fully protected.
- Ask the provider for details when you get the shot.



Even after you are vaccinated, wear your mask and continue to keep your distance. *This protects others waiting their turn.*



LEARN MORE AT
mass.gov/CovidVaccine



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Trust the **FACTS**
Get the **VAX**



2021 Stimulus Bill

Signed by President Biden on March 11th.

How much will I get?

- Up to \$1,400 **per person**, plus \$1,400 per child and dependent adult

Who will get the full stimulus payment?

- Individuals with up to \$75,000 (adjusted gross income)
- Heads of household with up to \$112,500 (adjusted gross income)
- Married couples who file jointly with up to \$150,000 (adjusted gross income)

How will I get paid?

- Direct deposit, paper check, or debit card

Where is my payment?

- Look here: <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment>

Frequently Asked Questions—click [here](#)



NEW Tax Deadlines



New FEDERAL and MASSACHUSETTS Tax deadlines:

May 17, 2021

Read more [here](#).

Your MCDHH Profile/Preferences

Interpreters or CART providers are not always available, but MCDHH's referral department will try to meet your needs.

Watch a VLOG about updating your consumer profile:

<https://www.facebook.com/228383383894713/videos/3802309706551800>



Text-to-911 and Real-Time Text

Text-to-911 Registry: a public list of the Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs or 911 call centers) that accept 911 communications through text messages. This list now has 911 call centers that can use *Real-Time Text*.

Find the list here: <https://www.fcc.gov/files/text-911-master-psap-registryxlsx>

Watch a vlog about *Real-Time Text*: <https://www.fcc.gov/real-time-text>



March: Women's History Month



Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing women have influenced many aspects of life as we know it. Some of their efforts are deeply ingrained in our culture.

Learn more [here!](#)

2021 Tax Filing

LOWELL AREA

Community Teamwork
Online or drop-off only.

NO APPOINTMENTS

Click [here](#) for more information about where you can drop off papers.



WORCESTER AREA

Worcester Community Action Council (WCAC)
(in Denholm Building, 2nd floor), Suite 202
484 Main Street, Worcester, MA
Paper drop-off hours (for scanning only)

NO APPOINTMENTS

Mondays	5:00 pm—7:00 pm
Wednesdays	3:00 pm—7:00 pm
Fridays	9:00 am—1:00 pm
Saturdays	9:00 am—12:00 pm

Watch VLOG in ASL here:
<https://youtu.be/kgicnlm0q9E>

COVID-19 Resources/Data

We will add more sites as needed.

Vaccine Information	https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine
Vaccine Appointments	https://vaxfinder.mass.gov/
Vaccine Appointments for 75+	www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccinations-for-people-ages-75-and-older
COVID-19 Testing	www.mass.gov/covid-19-testing
US COVID-19 Cases and Deaths <i>by State</i>	https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#cases_casesper100klast7days
COVID-19 Variant in the US	https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/transmission/variant-cases.html
MA COVID-19 town-by-town map	https://www.wcvb.com/article/massachusetts-coronavirus-covid-19-community-spread-risk-map-color-coded/33646711
MA Travel Order	https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-travel-order#lower-risk-states
MA Response Reporting	https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting
MA <i>Stop the Spread</i>	https://www.mass.gov/info-details/stop-the-spread ASL Version: https://www.facebook.com/massgov/videos/434334580929189/
Re-Opening MA	https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-updates-and-information#reopening-massachusetts-
Governor Press Conferences	Watch here: https://www.mass.gov/governor-updates Press Releases: https://www.mass.gov/lists/press-releases-related-to-covid-19



Contact Us!

Center for Living & Working, Inc.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Independent Living Services Department

Videophone: 508-762-1164

Voice/TTY: 508-755-1003

www.CenterLW.org



Like us on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/CenterForLivingAndWorking>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark Your Calendars



March 30, 2021
7:00 – 8:00 PM



Deaf World Lecture Series: Justin Jackson
The ASL Lab: Preserving ASL Through Social Media

Register:

bostonu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_dQITwZJCRn28oOZqxIFOBg

March 31, 2021
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM



Independent Living Education Day 2021: A Virtual Event

Check [here](#) for updates.

Questions? Contact sadie@masilc.org or 508-620-7452.

Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/independent-living-education-day-tickets-137489487759>

April – June 2021
First Wednesday of the month
1:00 – 2:30 PM



Healthy Relationship Support Group on Zoom

April 7: Tech Safety

May 5: Safety Planning

June 9: How to be an Ally/Self-care

RSVP REQUIRED

Contact Denise Paro at:

508-508-556-1600 or

DParo@CenterLW.org

Watch a VLOG here: <https://youtu.be/H8ghsxZoKZk>

Wednesday, April 7, 2021
First and third Wednesday of the month
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Virtual Housing Workshop

Boston Center for Independent Living (BCIL)'s workshop will teach you about affordable housing options in your area and how to apply.

Register [here](#).



April 9 – 10, 2021



2021 DEN Conference: Innovate & Adapt
Deaf Entrepreneurship Network

On Zoom

Registration: www.goden.org/2021virtualden

DHILS Consumer Deaf Zoom Chat
Second Tuesday of the month!
1:00 – 2:00 PM



JOIN US!

April 13, 2021

May 11, 2021

June 8, 2021

RSVP to Denise Paro at:

508-508-556-1600 or

DParo@CenterLW.org

Watch a VLOG here: <https://youtu.be/OBdXcnYlhBo>

April 23, 2021
8:00 PM



MSAD Virtual ASL Variety Show

Come meet Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind local performers! See their stories, learn about their culture, victories and struggles.

ASL poems, jokes, stories, artwork and more!

MC: Ivy Velez and Surprise Guest

Admission is FREE.

Zoom Meeting ID: 458 765 5196; Passcode: MSAD

Website: <https://massdeaf.org/>

July 19 – 30, 2021



2021 Annual Conference on Independent Living

Keep checking for updates!

<https://ncil.org/2021-annual-conference-on-independent-living/>

Last Thursday of Every Month!
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM



MassHire Central Career Centers—Virtual Job Fair

Free for all job seekers and employers.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: The Tuesday before the event.

Contact your MassHire Center: <https://masshirecentralcc.com/>

NOTE: See separate *SE Resources* page for more information or contact your Skills Trainer with questions.

Questions about this Newsletter?

Need a website address from your printed newsletter? Contact your Skills Trainer!

Joan Philip	DHILS Director	508-762-1165 (VP)
VACANT	Deaf Skills Trainer	508-762-1350 (VP)
Denise Paro	Administrative Assistant	508-556-1600 (VP)
Ellen Perkins	Hard of Hearing Skills Trainer	508-502-7576 (Voice); 508-762-1354 (VP)
Joy Spurlin	Assistant Manager/Skills Trainer	508-762-1166 (VP)
Justina Bailey	Deaf Skills Trainer	508-762-1021 (VP)
Kim White	Staff Interpreter	508-755-1042 x5042; 508-283-1036 (VP)

Parent/Kids Events

Thursdays

4:00 – 5:00 PM

Starting March 11th



Coping & Parenting During COVID-19 Support Group

On Zoom

- Discuss challenges/successes
- Connect with others
- Learn how to cope, and more!

Register: Call 508-796-1411 or [Email CKeenan@sevenhills.org](mailto:CKeenan@sevenhills.org)

NOTE: Request an ASL Interpreter or CART right away!

March 26, 2021

1:30 – 2:00 PM



Reading to Build Your Child's Spoken Language

Nicole Jacobson, MS, CCC-SLP. Families and professionals welcome!

Webinar will also be recorded.

<http://www.heartolearn.org/communities/learning-together.html>

April 8, 2021

6:30 – 8:00 PM



Parent Workshop Series

Pauline Menchin, Family TIES Regional Coordinator and mother of a Deaf child.

Via Zoom

Email Katie McCarthy: katie.mccarthy@childrens.harvard.edu

Second Tuesday of the month

1:00 – 2:00 PM



Mental Health Advocacy Program for Kids

Learn more about **MHAP for Kids** [here](#).

April 13: Delinquency Proceedings/CRA Law

May 11: CGP Proceedings/CRA Law

June 8: School Discipline Rights

Register by emailing Michaela: mmacquarrie@hla-inc.org

Sessions start in April 2021



Leadership Experience and Adventure Program (LEAP)

Deaf/HH high school students (ages 14-18) who use spoken language.

Online program helps teens gain confidence in virtual environments,

develop leadership skills, and connect with new friends.

Applications accepted until June 10, 2021 with sessions starting in April.

More information: www.aqbellleap.com



Boston Children's Hospital Deaf & Hard of Hearing Program

Visit Facebook for the latest events:

<https://www.facebook.com/BostonChildrensDHHP>



Worcester Family Partnership

Click [here](#) to see their Facebook.



2021 Schedule of FREE Events at Discovery Museum

The Especially for Me event series offers free admission for families with disabilities during dedicated hours when the Museum is closed to the general public and building capacity is limited. During these events, we offer accommodations that increase access to museum exhibits. The event titles indicate the types of accommodations provided, but any family that would benefit from a limited capacity visit is welcome at any event. A medical diagnosis is not required.

Space is very limited so preregistration is required at
www.discoveryacton.org/efm

All event dates and times are subject to change.

Autism-Friendly Afternoons

3:00pm - 4:30pm
 Sunday, January 10
 Sunday, March 28
 Sunday, July 11
 Sunday, September 19
 Sunday, December 5

Afternoons for Families of Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and KODA Children

3:00pm - 4:30pm
 Sunday, January 31
 Sunday, April 11
 Sunday, September 26
 Sunday, November 21

All Access Afternoons

ALL Especially for Me families,
 as well as families with any
 developmental disability are
 welcome.

3:00pm - 4:30pm
 Sunday, February 28
 Sunday, May 16
 Sunday, August 15
 Sunday, October 24

Visually Impaired Family Afternoon

3:00pm - 4:30pm
 Sunday, March 7



April 9-11, 2021

Advanced registration recommended.

A virtual weekend of Zoom meetings celebrating recovery:

- Friday night speakers
- Al-Anon/Alateen and AA speakers and workshops
 - AA Keynote speaker on Saturday afternoon
 - Al-Anon Keynote speaker on Saturday night
- Sunday morning spiritual speakers and workshops

**ASL & CART Services will be provided in ALL* sessions,
INCLUDING Alateen!**

More information, workshop topics and registration can be found at:

<https://alanonma.org/afgconvention/>

***Alateen sessions, ASL Only**

AMIAS Sessions CART only in Recertification session.

New/Interested AMIAS session ASL and CART.

**Worcester Community Connections Coalition (WCCC) of YOU, Inc.
and The Worcester Family Partnership**
In Collaboration with the Main South Community Development Corporation and
Worcester Public School's Woodland Academy
Present

A FREE Parent Leadership Training 8 Week Program **Worcester People Empowering People**

Parent Leadership Development Certificate from the University of Connecticut
Worrying About Problems in Your Community? – Help Change Them!!
Turn Your Concern Into Action!



Where: On Zoom!

When: Wednesday Evenings (4/14, 4/28, 5/5, 5/12, 5/19, 5/26, 6/2, 6/9
and 6/16 (graduation)

Time: 5:30 – 7:10 pm

LINK to Submit Nominations: <https://forms.gle/DSmq3HV2yS4kp23s8>

Space is Limited. Please contact Anne at abureau@sevenhills.org or 774-312-3828 for more information
Parent Nominations will be accepted until April 9th, 2021.





2021 Youth Leadership Forum



YLF is a free conference for Massachusetts youth & young adults with all types of disabilities. Participants build leadership skills and learn about employment, advocacy, assistive technology, and independent living. YLF 2021 will take place virtually!

What: Leadership Conference

Who: Youth/young adults with disabilities, ages 16-25

When: June 14-28, 2021
(late afternoons/evenings)

Where: Online via webinar

Deadline: *April 30th, 2021 and ongoing based on space availability. Please Apply ASAP!*

What topics are covered?

- Employment skills
- Advocacy
- Disability pride
- Career Mentoring
- Independent living
- Disability services

Accommodations available.

To learn more, visit **www.PYD.org**
or contact Susan Nicastro, YLF Director, at
(617) 556-4075 x113 or **ylf@pyd.org**

To apply, visit:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YLFAApplication2021>

Summer Youth WEBINARS 2021

Meet us online and explore a world of possibilities!

Session 1

June 21 - 25

Session 2

June 28 - July 2

Session 3

July 6 - 9



Got Skills? Online Only!

Session 1 · Middle School only

Design your own webinar experience!

Immerse into ASL

Session 1 · High School only

Learn the rich language and culture!



Deaf Youth Pride

Session 2 · High School only

Explore and embrace your identity!

Summer Spotlight Series

Sessions 2 and 3 · Middle School and High School
Explore various topics through faculty-led activities!



DeafBiz

Session 3 · High School only

Find your passion and pursue it!