

# **North Fork Boutique Gardens**

**North Fork Boutique Gardens**

**September 28, 2022**

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# Core Policies

## 1.0 Welcome

### 1.1 A Welcome Policy

Welcome! You have just joined a dedicated organization. We hope that your employment with North Fork Boutique Gardens will be rewarding and challenging. We take pride in our employees as well as in the products and services we provide.

The Company complies with all federal and state employment laws, and this handbook generally reflects those laws. The Company also complies with any applicable local laws, although there may not be an express written policy regarding those laws contained in the handbook.

The employment policies and/or benefits summaries in this handbook are written for all employees. When questions arise concerning the interpretation of these policies as they relate to employees who are covered by a collective-bargaining agreement, the answers will be determined by reference to the actual union contract, rather than the summaries contained in this handbook.

Please take the time now to read this handbook carefully. Sign the acknowledgment at the end to show that you have read, understood, and agree to the contents of this handbook, which sets out the basic rules and guidelines concerning your employment. This handbook supersedes any previously issued handbooks or policy statements dealing with the subjects discussed herein. The Company reserves the right to interpret, modify, or supplement the provisions of this handbook at any time. Neither this handbook nor any other communication by a management representative or other, whether oral or written, is intended in any way to create a contract of employment. Please understand that no employee handbook can address every situation in the work place.

If you have questions about your employment or any provisions in this handbook, contact your Supervisor.

We wish you success in your employment here at North Fork Boutique Gardens!

All the best,

Human Resources North Fork Boutique Gardens

### 1.2 At-Will Employment

Your employment with North Fork Boutique Gardens is on an "at-will" basis. This means your employment may be terminated at any time, with or without notice and with or without cause. Likewise, we respect your right to leave the Company at any time, with or without notice and with or without cause.

Nothing in this handbook or any other Company document should be understood as creating a contract, guaranteed or continued employment, a right to termination only "for cause," or any other guarantee of continued benefits or employment. Only the Human Resources has the authority to make promises or negotiate with regard to guaranteed or continued employment, and any such promises are only effective if placed in writing and signed by the Human Resources.

If a written contract between you and the Company is inconsistent with this handbook, the written contract is controlling.

Nothing in this handbook will be interpreted, applied, or enforced to interfere with, restrain, or coerce employees in the exercise of their rights under Section 7 of the National Labor Relations Act.

## 2.0 Introductory Language and Policies

## **2.1 About the Company**

Located in the quiet town of Mattituck, just two hours East of New York City, on the North Fork of Long Island, North Fork Boutique Gardens has found a place to call home. NFBG is a premier wholesale supplier of perennials, grasses, ferns, groundcovers and Northeast natives. Aside from supplying plants to retailers across the Northeast, we specialize in custom grown plant material for both large and small projects. Some of our custom plant material can be found all over the Greater New York City Area in places like the Brooklyn Bridge Park, the Brooklyn Bridge Piers, The United Nations, the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens, the Irish Hunger Memorial, and on Roosevelt Island. Our custom plant material can also be found at the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary in Oyster Bay, NY and at the WWE Headquarters in Stamford, CT.

Nestled on 17 acres, NFBG resides in the location that was previously known as The Plantage where Lois Woodhull began her career and became one of the most respected perennial pioneers. Working side by side with Lois, Deborah Rodgers began her journey with the nursery. After exploring and succeeding in other career opportunities, Deb eventually made her way back to the property, which she now owns.

In March of 2014 Deb began her adventure in building a boutique style nursery growing specialty perennials, woody ornamentals, grasses, ferns and Northeast Natives. Aside from growing unique and quality plants, Deb also wanted to focus on the customer experience. Developing solid relationships with clients built on trust, loyalty and consistency was her ultimate goal.

Over the next three years, Deb spent her time hiring a team of experts with knowledge and experience in the areas she felt most important, quality plant material and customer service. She selected Kathryn Donoghue, Matthew Purcell and Joshua Scruggs to help make her vision complete. Their areas of expertise include production planning, ornamental horticulture, sales management and customer experience, just to name a few.

Aside from building a team, NFBG has spent the past few years evolving our shipping operation, creating custom retail garden center labels, focusing on growing neonicotinoid free plants and custom growing a variety of unique and rare plant material for large and small projects.

Closing out our eighth season, NFBG serves over 400 garden centers, landscapers and landscape architects across the Northeast. We have successfully built solid individual relationships with each location we supply and continue to add new clients each week. Additionally, NFBG has become Women Owned Certified in New York State, New York City, New Jersey, Suffolk County, Westchester County, Nassau County, Massachusetts, WBENC, NYC School of Construction Authority and The Port Authority of NY & NJ.

## **2.2 Ethics Code**

North Fork Boutique Gardens will conduct business honestly and ethically wherever operations are maintained. We strive to improve the quality of our services, products, and operations and will maintain a reputation for honesty, fairness, respect, responsibility, integrity, trust, and sound business judgment. Our managers and employees are expected to adhere to high standards of business and personal integrity as a representation of our business practices, at all times consistent with their duty of loyalty to the Company.

We expect that officers, directors, and employees will not knowingly misrepresent the Company and will not speak on behalf of the Company unless specifically authorized. The confidentiality of trade secrets, proprietary information, and similar confidential commercially-sensitive information (i.e. financial or sales records/reports, marketing or business strategies/plans, product development, customer lists, patents, trademarks, etc.) about the Company or operations, or that of our customers or partners, is to be treated with discretion and only disseminated on a need-to-know basis (see policies relating to privacy).

Violation of the Code of Ethics can result in discipline, up to and including termination of employment. The degree of discipline imposed may be influenced by the existence of voluntary disclosure of any ethical violation and whether or not the violator cooperated in any subsequent investigation.

## **2.3 Mission Statement**

**North Fork Boutique Gardens** and its team of experts are working on the propagation of natives, ornamental grasses, perennials, and shrubs. NFBG is committed to supplying customers with superior quality plant material for your wholesale yard and retail garden center.

*We have the ability to UPC and/or price plants to make our products easier to sell. Our goal is to deliver to our customers within 48 hours of an order, to ensure your products look vibrant at all times and require less maintenance on your client's part. We encourage our customers to pre-book any orders that can be anticipated for the coming year. In addition, if your client is searching for a specific item or has a special need, we encourage you to reach out to our experts at NFBG. If we do not have the product in stock or cannot custom grow for you, we can direct you to a quality source to fill your plant needs.*

*NFBG is committed to being a solution provider and building a long-term partnership with our valued customers.*

## **2.4 Revisions to Handbook**

This handbook is our attempt to keep you informed of the terms and conditions of your employment, including North Fork Boutique Gardens policies and procedures. The handbook is not a contract. The Company reserves the right to revise, add, or delete from this handbook as we determine to be in our best interest, except the policy concerning at-will employment. When changes are made to the policies and guidelines contained herein, we will endeavor to communicate them in a timely fashion, typically in a written supplement to the handbook or in a posting on company bulletin boards.

## **3.0 Hiring and Orientation Policies**

### **3.1 Conflicts of Interest**

North Fork Boutique Gardens is concerned with conflicts of interest that create actual or potential job-related concerns, especially in the areas of confidentiality, customer relations, safety, security, and morale. If there is any actual or potential conflict of interest between you and a competitor, supplier, distributor, or contractor to the Company, you must disclose it to your Supervisor. If an actual or potential conflict of interest is determined to exist, the Company will take such steps as it deems necessary to reduce or eliminate this conflict.

### **3.2 Employment Authorization Verification**

New hires will be required to complete Section 1 of federal Form I-9 on the first day of paid employment and must present acceptable documents authorized by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services proving identity and employment authorization no later than the third business day following the start of employment with North Fork Boutique Gardens. If you are currently employed and have not complied with this requirement or if your status has changed, inform your Supervisor.

If you are authorized to work in this country for a limited period of time, you will be required to submit proof of renewed employment eligibility prior to expiration of that period to remain employed by the Company.

### **3.3 New Hires and Introductory Periods**

The first 90 days of your employment is considered an introductory period. During this period, you will become familiar with North Fork Boutique Gardens and your job responsibilities, and we will have the opportunity to monitor the quality and value of your performance and make any necessary adjustments in your job description or responsibilities. Completion of this introductory period does not imply guaranteed or continued employment. Nothing that occurs during or after this period should be construed to change the nature of the "at-will" employment relationship.

## **4.0 Wage and Hour Policies**

## 4.1 Attendance

If you know ahead of time that you will be absent or late, provide reasonable advance notice to your Supervisor. You may be required to provide documentation of any medical or other excuse for being absent or late where permitted by applicable law.

North Fork Boutique Gardens reserves the right to apply unused vacation, sick time, or other paid time off to unauthorized absences where permitted by applicable law. Absences resulting from approved leave, vacation, or legal requirements are exceptions to the policy.

## 4.2 Direct Deposit

North Fork Boutique Gardens encourages all employees to enroll in direct deposit. If you would like to take advantage of direct deposit, ask payroll for an application form. Typically, the bank will begin the direct deposit of your payroll within 30 calendar days after you submit your completed application.

If you have selected the direct deposit payroll service, a written explanation of your deductions will be provided to you on paydays in lieu of a check on your Paychex Flex portal.

## 4.3 Employment Classifications

The Company designates all employees as either exempt or nonexempt in compliance with applicable federal, state, and local law:

- **Exempt Employees.** Exempt employees are generally paid a fixed salary and are not entitled to overtime pay.
- **Nonexempt Employees.** Nonexempt employees are entitled to minimum wage and overtime pay.

The Company also assigns each employee to one of the following categories:

- **Regular Full-Time Employees.** Regular full-time employees are normally scheduled to work at least 30 hours per workweek, except for approved time off. Full-time employees are eligible for most Company benefits.
- **Regular Part-Time Employees.** Regular part-time employees are normally scheduled to work 30 hours or less per workweek. Part-time employees are not eligible for most Company benefits.
- **Seasonal Employees.** Seasonal employees are hired on a temporary basis during a time of year when extra work is available. Seasonal employees are not eligible for most Company benefits.

You will be informed of your classification, status, and responsibilities at the time of hire and at any time your classification, status, or responsibilities change. If you have a question regarding this information, contact Human Resources. These classifications do not alter your employment at-will status.

## 4.4 Introduction to Wage and Hour Policies

At North Fork Boutique Gardens, pay depends on a wide range of factors, including pay scale surveys, individual effort, profits, and market forces. If you have any questions about your compensation, including matters such as paid time off, commissions, overtime, benefits, or paycheck deductions, speak with your Supervisor.

## 4.5 Job Abandonment

If you fail to show up for work or fail to call in with an acceptable reason for the absence for a period of three consecutive days, you will be considered to have abandoned your job and voluntarily resigned from North Fork Boutique Gardens.

## 4.6 Paycheck Deductions

North Fork Boutique Gardens is required by law to make certain deductions from your pay each pay period, including deductions for federal income tax, Social Security and Medicare (FICA) taxes, and any other deductions required under law

or by court order for wage garnishments. The amount of your tax deductions will depend on your earnings and the information you list on your federal Form W-4 and applicable state withholding form. Permissible deductions for exempt employees may also include, but are not limited to, deductions for full-day absences for reasons other than sickness or disability and certain disciplinary suspensions. You may also authorize certain voluntary deductions from your paycheck where permissible under state law. Your deductions will be reflected in your wage statement. If you have any questions about deductions from your pay, contact your Supervisor.

The Company will not make deductions to your pay that are prohibited by federal, state, or local law. Review your paycheck for errors each pay period and immediately report any discrepancies to your Supervisor.

You will be reimbursed in full for any isolated, inadvertent, or improper deductions, as defined by law. If an error is found, you will receive an immediate adjustment, which will be paid no later than your next regular payday.

The Company will not retaliate against employees who report erroneous deductions in accordance with this policy.

## **4.7 Recording Time**

North Fork Boutique Gardens is required by applicable federal, state, and local laws to keep accurate records of hours worked by certain employees. To ensure that the Company has complete and accurate time records and that employees are paid for all hours worked, nonexempt employees are required to record all working time using Company time cards. Exempt employees may also be required to track days or time worked. Speak with your Supervisor for specific instructions.

You must accurately record all of your time to ensure you are paid for all hours worked, and must follow established Company procedures for recording your hours worked. Time must be recorded as follows:

- Immediately before starting your shift.
- Immediately after finishing work, before your meal period.
- Immediately before resuming work, after your meal period.
- Immediately after finishing work.
- Immediately before and after any other time away from work.

Time sheets/time cards are to be turned in to your Supervisor on Monday mornings.

If you are required to clock in, you should clock in no more than five minutes before the time you actually start working and clock out no later than five minutes after you actually stop working.

Notify your Supervisor of any pay discrepancies, unrecorded or misrecorded work hours, or any involuntarily missed meal or break periods.

Falsifying time entries is strictly prohibited. Falsifying time entries includes working "off the clock." If you falsify your own time records, or the time records of co-workers, or if you work off the clock, you will be subject to discipline up to and including termination. Immediately report to your Supervisor any employee, supervisor, or manager who falsifies your time entries or encourages or requires you to falsify your time entries or work off the clock.

## **5.0 Performance, Discipline, Layoff, and Termination**

### **5.1 Criminal Activity/Arrests**

North Fork Boutique Gardens will report all criminal activity in accordance with applicable law. Involvement in criminal activity while employed by the Company, whether on or off Company property, may result in disciplinary action including suspension or termination of employment.

You are expected to be on the job, ready to work, when scheduled. Inability to report to work as scheduled may lead to



disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment, for violation of an attendance policy or job abandonment.

## **5.2 Open Door/Conflict Resolution Process**

North Fork Boutique Gardens strives to provide a comfortable, productive, legal, and ethical work environment. To this end, we want you to bring any problems, concerns, or grievances you have about the work place to the attention of your Supervisor and, if necessary, to Human Resources or upper level management. To help manage conflict resolution we have instituted the following problem solving procedure:

If you believe there is inappropriate conduct or activity on the part of the Company, management, its employees, vendors, customers, or any other persons or entities related to the Company, bring your concerns to the attention of your Supervisor at a time and place that will allow the person to properly listen to your concern. Most problems can be resolved informally through dialogue between you and your immediate Supervisor. If you have already brought this matter to the attention of your Supervisor before and do not believe you have received a sufficient response, or if you believe that person is the source of the problem, present your concerns to Human Resources or upper level management. Describe the problem, those persons involved in the problem, efforts you have made to resolve the problem, and any suggested solution you may have.

## **5.3 Outside Employment**

Outside employment that creates a conflict of interest or that affects the quality or value of your work performance or availability at North Fork Boutique Gardens is prohibited. The Company recognizes that you may seek additional employment during off hours, but in all cases expects that any outside employment will not affect your attendance, job performance, productivity, work hours, or scheduling, or would otherwise adversely affect your ability to effectively perform your duties or in any way create a conflict of interest. Any outside employment that will conflict with your duties and obligations to the Company should be reported to your Supervisor. Failure to adhere to this policy may result in discipline up to and including termination.

## **5.4 Pay Raises**

Depending on financial health and other Company factors, efforts will be made to give pay raises consistent with North Fork Boutique Gardens profitability, job performance, and the consumer price index. The Company may also make individual pay raises based on merit or due to a change of job position.

## **5.5 Post-Employment References**

North Fork Boutique Gardens policy is to confirm dates of employment and job title only. With written authorization, the Company will confirm compensation. Forward any requests for employment verification to Human Resources .

## **5.6 Resignation Policy**

North Fork Boutique Gardens hopes that your employment with the Company will be a mutually rewarding experience; however, the Company acknowledges that varying circumstances can cause you to resign employment. The Company intends to handle any resignation in a professional manner with minimal disruption to the workplace.

### Notice

The Company requests that you provide a minimum of two weeks' notice of your resignation. If you are a Supervisor, you are requested to provide a minimum of four weeks' notice. Provide a written resignation letter to your Supervisor. If you provide less notice than requested, the Company may deem you to be ineligible for rehire, depending on the circumstances of the notice given.

The Company reserves the right to provide you with pay in lieu of notice in situations where job or business needs warrant.

### Final Pay

The Company will pay separated employees in accordance with applicable laws and other sections of this handbook.

Notify the Company if your address changes during the calendar year in which resignation occurs to ensure tax information is sent to the correct address.

### Return of Property

Return all Company property at the time of separation, including uniforms, cellphones, keys, tools, laptops, credit cards, and identification cards. Failure to return some items may result in deductions from your final paycheck where state law allows. In some circumstances, the Company may pursue criminal charges for failure to return Company property.

## **5.7 Standards of Conduct**

North Fork Boutique Gardens wishes to create a work environment that promotes job satisfaction, respect, responsibility, integrity, and value for all our employees, clients, customers, and other stakeholders. We all share in the responsibility of improving the quality of our work environment. By deciding to work here, you agree to follow our rules.

While it is impossible to list everything that could be considered misconduct in the workplace, what is outlined here is a list of common-sense infractions that could result in discipline, up to and including immediate termination of employment. This policy is not intended to limit our right to discipline or discharge employees for any reason permitted by law.

Examples of inappropriate conduct include:

- Violation of the policies and procedures set forth in this handbook.
- Possessing, using, distributing, selling, or negotiating the sale of illegal drugs or other controlled substances.
- Being under the influence of alcohol during working hours on Company property (including in Company vehicles), or on Company business.
- Inaccurate reporting of the hours worked by you or any other employees.
- Providing knowingly inaccurate, incomplete, or misleading information when speaking on behalf of the Company or in the preparation of any employment-related documents including, but not limited to, job applications, personnel files, employment review documents, intra-company communications, or expense records.
- Taking or destroying Company property.
- Possession of potentially hazardous or dangerous property (where not permitted) such as firearms, weapons, chemicals, etc., without prior authorization.
- Fighting with, or harassment of (as defined in our EEO policy), any fellow employee, vendor, or customer.
- Disclosure of Company trade secrets and proprietary and confidential commercially-sensitive information (i.e. financial or sales records/reports, marketing or business strategies/plans, product development information, customer lists, patents, trademarks, etc.) of the Company or its customers, contractors, suppliers, or vendors.
- Refusal or failure to follow directions or to perform a requested or required job task.
- Refusal or failure to follow safety rules and procedures.
- Excessive tardiness or absences.
- Smoking in nondesignated areas.
- Working unauthorized overtime.
- Solicitation of fellow employees on Company premises during working hours.
- Failure to dress according to Company policy.
- Use of obscene or harassing (as defined by our EEO policy) language in the workplace.
- Engaging in outside employment that interferes with your ability to perform your job at this Company.
- Gambling on Company premises.
- Lending keys or keycards to Company property to unauthorized persons.

Nothing in this policy is intended to limit your rights under the National Labor Relations Act, or to modify the at-will employment status where at-will is not prohibited by state law.

## **6.0 General Policies**

## **6.1 Computer Security and Copying of Software**

Software programs purchased and provided by North Fork Boutique Gardens are to be used only for creating, researching, and processing materials for Company use. By using Company hardware, software, and networking systems you assume personal responsibility for their use and agree to comply with this policy and other applicable Company policies, as well as city, state, and federal laws and regulations.

All software acquired for or on behalf of the Company, or developed by Company employees or contract personnel on behalf of the Company, is and will be deemed Company property. It is the policy of the Company to respect all computer software rights and to adhere to the terms of all software licenses to which the Company is a party. The Director of Information Systems is responsible for enforcing these guidelines.

You may not illegally duplicate any licensed software or related documentation. Unauthorized duplication of software may subject you and/or the Company to both civil and criminal penalties under the United States Copyright Act. To purchase software, obtain your manager's approval. All software acquired by the Company must be purchased through IT.

You may not duplicate, copy, or give software to any outsiders including clients, contractors, customers, and others. You may use software on local area networks or on multiple machines only in accordance with applicable license agreements entered into by the Company.

## **6.2 Driving Record**

All employees required to operate a motor vehicle as part of their employment duties at North Fork Boutique Gardens must maintain a valid driver's license and acceptable driving record. The Company may run a motor vehicle department check to determine your driving record. It is your responsibility to provide a copy of your current driver's license for your personnel file. Any changes in your driving record, including but not limited to driving infractions, must be reported to the Company.

State law requires all motorists to carry auto liability insurance. It is against the law to drive without insurance. If you use your own vehicle as a part of your employment duties, you must provide management with a current proof of insurance statement or card. New proof of insurance is required every time your policy expires and renews.

## **6.3 Employer Sponsored Social Events**

North Fork Boutique Gardens holds periodic social events for employees. Be advised that your attendance at these events is voluntary and does not constitute part of your work-related duties. Any exceptions to this policy must be in writing and signed by a Supervisor prior to the event.

Alcoholic beverages may be available at these events. If you choose to drink alcoholic beverages, you must do so in a responsible manner. Do not drink and drive. Instead, please call a taxi or appoint a designated driver.

## **6.4 Employer-Provided Cell Phones/Mobile Devices**

North Fork Boutique Gardens may issue certain employees a Company cell phone/mobile device for work-related communications and/or operations. If you drive a vehicle during your employment, you may not use any cell phone/mobile device or other communication device while driving unless the device is equipped or configured with a "hands-free" listening/speaking option, and you in fact utilize the hands-free device.

We understand that you may use the cell phone/mobile device for personal use; however, such personal use should not exceed the plan allowance. When the cell phone/mobile device is used for personal reasons and the activity results in additional cost to the Company, you are responsible for the cost of that usage, including all applicable taxes unless prohibited by law.

The Company owns and remains entitled to all cell phone/mobile devices issued to employees, including all passwords controlling access to them. You may not change those passwords except with permission. At the time of employment termination, all such equipment and passwords must be returned to the Company in operable condition.

Violation of this policy may result in discipline, up to and including termination of employment.

## **6.5 GPS Monitoring of Employer Vehicles**

North Fork Boutique Gardens desires to strike the appropriate balance between today's technologies, your desire for privacy, and our interests in protecting Company vehicles, equipment, and drivers. Due to safety, efficiency, and other business purposes, the Company uses GPS technology to monitor the whereabouts of our vehicles at all times.

Questions concerning vehicle monitoring should be directed to your Supervisor. Questions concerning the proper use of any vehicles should be directed to your Supervisor.

If you abuse the privilege of driving company vehicles, you will be subject to corrective action, up to and including termination of employment. If necessary, the Company will also advise law enforcement officials of any illegal conduct.

## **6.6 Nonsolicitation/Nondistribution Policy**

To avoid disruption of business operations or disturbance of employees, visitors, and others, North Fork Boutique Gardens has implemented a Nonsolicitation/Nondistribution Policy. For purposes of this policy, "solicitation" includes, but is not limited to, selling items or services, requesting contributions, and soliciting or seeking to obtain membership in or support for any organization. Solicitation performed through verbal, written, or electronic means is covered by the Nonsolicitation/Nondistribution Policy.

You are prohibited from soliciting other employees during your assigned working time. For this purpose, working time means time during which either you or the employees who are the object of the solicitation are expected to be actively engaged with assigned work. You may conduct solicitations during your lunch period, coffee breaks, or other authorized nonworking time, so long as you do so when the other employees are also on nonworking time.

To avoid inappropriate litter, clutter, and safety risks, you may not distribute literature or other items that are not work related in working areas at any time. Working areas do not include break/rest areas, lunch rooms, or parking lots. Electronic distribution of materials is prohibited during work time. Literature that violates the company's equal employment opportunity (EEO) and nonharassment policies (including threats of violence), or is knowingly and recklessly false, is never permitted. Non-employees are not permitted to distribute materials on company premises at any time.

This policy is not intended to restrict the statutory rights of employees, including the right to discuss terms and conditions of employment.

Violations of this policy should be reported to your Supervisor.

## **6.7 Payroll Advances and Loans**

North Fork Boutique Gardens discourages employee requests for payroll advances or loans. If you need an advance or loan against your paycheck for emergency reasons, consult with your supervisor.

Before the Company will agree to advance wages or loan money, you will be required to fill out a promissory note acknowledging the advance or loan and setting forth the terms for repayment, including any interest. You will also be required to authorize in writing deductions for repayment directly from future paychecks and to pay the full amount of the advance or loan upon termination of employment as permitted by applicable law.

## **6.8 Personal Appearance**

Your personal appearance reflects on the reputation, integrity, and public image of North Fork Boutique Gardens. All employees are required to report to work neatly groomed and dressed. You are expected to maintain personal hygiene habits that are generally accepted in the community, including clean clothing, good grooming and personal hygiene, and appropriate attire for the workplace and the work being performed. This may include wearing uniforms or protective safety clothing and equipment, depending upon the job. Use common sense and good judgment in determining what to wear to work.

Fragrant products, including but not limited to perfumes, colognes, and scented body lotions or hair products, should be used in moderation out of concern for others with sensitivities or allergies.

The Company, in accordance with applicable law, will reasonably accommodate employees with disabilities or religious beliefs that make it difficult for them to comply fully with the personal appearance policy unless doing so would impose an undue hardship on the Company. Contact your Supervisor to request a reasonable accommodation.

Failure to comply with the personal appearance standards may result in being sent home to groom or change clothes. Frequent violations may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.

## **6.9 Personal Cell Phone/Mobile Device Use**

While North Fork Boutique Gardens permits employees to bring personal cell phones and other mobile devices (i.e. smart phones, tablets, laptops) into the workplace, you must not allow the use of such devices to interfere with your job duties or impact workplace safety and health.

Use of personal cell phones and mobile devices at work can be distracting and disruptive and cause a loss of productivity. Thus, you should primarily use such personal devices during nonworking time, such as breaks and meal periods. During this time, use devices in a manner that is courteous to those around you. Outside of nonworking time, use of such devices should be minimal and limited to emergency use only. If you have a device that has a camera and/or audio/video recording capability, you are restricted from using those functions on Company property unless authorized in advance by management or when they are used in a manner consistent with your right to engage in concerted activity under section 7 of the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA).

You are expected to comply with Company policies regarding the protection of confidential and proprietary information when using personal devices.

While operating a vehicle on work time, the Company requires that the driver's personal cell phone/mobile device be turned off. If you need to make or receive a phone call while driving, pull off the road to a safe location unless you have the correct hands-free equipment for the device that is in compliance with applicable state laws.

You may not connect your personal device to the Company network or to Company equipment (computers, printers, etc.)

You may have the opportunity to use your personal devices for work purposes. Before using a personal device for work-related purposes, you must obtain written authorization from management. The use of personal devices is limited to certain employees and may be limited based on compatibility of technology.

Nothing in this policy is intended to prevent employees from engaging in protected concerted activity under the NLRA.

You will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment for violation of this policy.

## **6.10 Personal Data Changes**

It is your obligation to provide North Fork Boutique Gardens with your current contact information, including current mailing address and telephone number. You should also inform the Company of any changes to your tax withholding status. Failure to do so may result in loss of benefits or delayed receipt of W-2 and other mailings. To make changes to this information,

contact Human Resources.

## 6.11 Security

All employees are responsible for helping to make North Fork Boutique Gardens a secure work environment. Upon leaving work, lock all desks, lockers, and doors protecting valuable or sensitive material in your work area and report any lost or stolen keys, passes, or similar devices to your Supervisor immediately. Refrain from discussing specifics regarding Company security systems, alarms, passwords, etc. with those outside of the Company.

Immediately advise your Supervisor of any known or potential security risks and/or suspicious conduct of employees, customers, or guests of the Company. Safety and security is the responsibility of all employees and we rely on you to help us keep our premises secure.

## 6.12 Social Media

At North Fork Boutique Gardens, we recognize the Internet provides unique opportunities to participate in interactive discussions and share information using a wide variety of social media. However, use of social media also presents certain risks and carries with it certain responsibilities. To minimize risks to the Company, you are expected to follow our guidelines for appropriate use of social media.

This policy applies to all employees who work for the Company.

### Guidelines

For purposes of this policy, **social media** includes all means of communicating or posting information or content of any sort on the Internet, including to your own or someone else's web log or blog, journal or diary, personal website, social networking or affinity website, web bulletin board or a chat room, whether associated or affiliated with the Company, as well as any other form of electronic communication.

Company principles, guidelines, and policies apply to online activities just as they apply to other areas of work. Ultimately, you are solely responsible for what you communicate in social media. You may be personally responsible for any litigation that may arise should you make unlawful defamatory, slanderous, or libelous statements against any customer, manager, owner, or employees of the Company.

### Know and Follow the Rules

Ensure your postings are consistent with these guidelines. Postings that include unlawful discriminatory remarks, harassment, and threats of violence or other unlawful conduct will not be tolerated and may subject you to disciplinary action up to and including termination.

### Be Respectful

The Company cannot force or mandate respectful and courteous activity by employees on social media during nonworking time. If you decide to post complaints or criticism, avoid using statements, photographs, video, or audio that reasonably could be viewed as unlawful, slanderous, threatening, or that might constitute unlawful harassment. Examples of such conduct might include defamatory or slanderous posts meant to harm someone's reputation or posts that could contribute to a hostile work environment on the basis of race, sex, disability, age, national origin, religion, veteran status, or any other status or class protected by law or Company policy. Your personal posts and social media activity should not reflect upon or refer to the Company.

### Maintain Accuracy and Confidentiality

When posting information:

- Maintain the confidentiality of trade secrets, intellectual property, and confidential commercially-sensitive information (i.e. financial or sales records/reports, marketing or business strategies/plans, product development, customer lists,

patents, trademarks, etc.) related to the Company.

- Do not create a link from your personal blog, website, or other social networking site to a Company website that identifies you as speaking on behalf of the Company.
- Never represent yourself as a spokesperson for the Company. If the Company is a subject of the content you are creating, do not represent yourself as speaking on behalf of the Company. Make it clear in your social media activity that you are speaking on your own behalf.
- Respect copyright, trademark, third-party rights, and similar laws and use such protected information in compliance with applicable legal standards.

#### Using Social Media at Work

Do not use social media while on your work time, unless it is work related as authorized by your manager or consistent with policies that cover equipment owned by the Company.

#### Media Contacts

If you are not authorized to speak on behalf of the Company, do not speak to the media on behalf of the Company. Direct all media inquiries for official Company responses to Human Resources.

#### Retaliation and Your Rights

Retaliation or any other negative action is prohibited against anyone who, based on a reasonable belief, reports a possible deviation from this policy or cooperates in an investigation. Those who retaliate against others for reporting a possible deviation from this policy or for cooperating in an investigation will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

Nothing in this policy is designed to interfere with, restrain, or prevent employees from communications regarding wages, hours, or other terms and conditions of employment, or to restrain employees in exercising any other right protected by law. All employees have the right to engage in or refrain from such activities.

### **6.13 Suggestion Policy**

At North Fork Boutique Gardens, we welcome suggestions for continued improvement and welcome your ideas for better ways to do your job, produce or sell the products or services of our Company, or meet customer and client needs. Discuss your ideas with your Supervisor or another member of the management team.

We also encourage you to offer any suggestions derived from seminars, magazines, or other outside sources of information you believe would add value to the Company.

Understand that any suggestions, innovations, inventions, or other matter created by you on work time or with Company tools or property are considered to be the property of the Company.

### **6.14 Telephone Use**

North Fork Boutique Gardens phones are principally for work-related communications. Unless there is an emergency, limit long distance telephone calls to business purposes only. Limit personal use of Company telephones to brief communications during rest periods where possible. Casual conversation with friends and relatives during working hours is strongly discouraged. Telephone use is subject to the Use of Company Technology Policy.

### **6.15 Third Party Disclosures**

From time to time, North Fork Boutique Gardens may become involved in news stories or potential or actual legal proceedings of various kinds. When that happens, lawyers, former employees, newspapers, law enforcement agencies, and other outside persons may contact our employees to obtain information about the incident or the actual or potential lawsuit.

If you receive such a contact, you should not speak on behalf of the Company and should refer any call requesting the position of the Company to Human Resources. If you have any questions about this policy or are not certain what to do when such a contact is made, contact Human Resources.

## **6.16 Use of Company Technology**

This policy is intended to provide North Fork Boutique Gardens employees with the guidelines associated with the use of the Company information technology (IT) resources and communications systems.

This policy governs the use of all IT resources and communications systems owned by or available at the Company, and all use of such resources and systems when accessed using your own devices, including but not limited to: Email systems and accounts.

- Internet and intranet access.
- Telephones and voicemail systems, including wired and mobile phones, smartphones, and pagers.
- Printers, photocopiers, and scanners.
- Fax machines, e-fax systems, and modems.
- All other associated computer, network, and communications systems, hardware, peripherals, and software, including network key fobs and other devices.
- Closed-circuit television (CCTV) and all other physical security systems and devices, including access key cards and fobs.

### General Provisions

Company IT resources and communications systems are to be used for business purposes only unless otherwise permitted under applicable law.

All content maintained in Company IT resources and communications systems are the property of the Company. Therefore, employees should have no expectation of privacy in any message, file, data, document, facsimile, telephone conversation, social media post, conversation, or any other kind or form of information or communication transmitted to, received, or printed from, or stored or recorded on Company electronic information and communications systems.

The Company reserves the right to monitor, intercept, and/or review all data transmitted, received, or downloaded over Company IT resources and communications systems in accordance with applicable law. Any individual who is given access to the system is hereby given notice that the Company will exercise this right periodically, without prior notice and without prior consent.

The interests of the Company in monitoring and intercepting data include, but are not limited to: protection of Company trade secrets, proprietary information, and similar confidential commercially-sensitive information (i.e. financial or sales records/reports, marketing or business strategies/plans, product development, customer lists, patents, trademarks, etc.); managing the use of the computer system; and/or assisting employees in the management of electronic data during periods of absence.

You should not interpret the use of password protection as creating a right or expectation of privacy, nor should you have a right or expectation of privacy regarding the receipt, transmission, or storage of data on Company IT resources and communications systems.

Do not use Company IT resources and communications systems for any matter that you would like to be kept private or confidential.

### Violations

If you violate this policy, you will be subject to corrective action, up to and including termination of employment. If necessary, the Company will also advise law enforcement officials of any illegal conduct.



## 6.17 Use of Employer Vehicles

Company vehicles are to be used for North Fork Boutique Gardens business only. Unless the use of the vehicle has been approved for personal use, personal or outside business use is strictly prohibited.

If you drive a Company vehicle, all infractions or violations while driving the vehicle and all restrictions, suspensions, or revocations against your driver's license must be immediately reported to your Supervisor.

When a Company vehicle cannot be operated, is unsafe for use, or has been damaged, notify your Supervisor immediately.

As the driver of a Company vehicle, you are responsible for the vehicle while in your charge and must not permit unauthorized persons to drive it. You are also responsible for the daily housekeeping of the vehicle; it is to remain clean and uncluttered.

You may not operate a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or a chemical substance or other substance that can impair judgment. You may not operate a motor vehicle while texting, emailing, or otherwise using a cell phone or other handheld device without utilizing a hands-free device.

Multiple driving moving violations that appear on the annual state department of motor vehicle check will result in suspension of rights to drive a Company vehicle or drive a personal vehicle on Company business. Suspension of rights will continue until one year has passed with no infractions. If there are persistent and ongoing problems with driving infractions, and driving a vehicle is a part of successful execution of job responsibilities, you may be terminated.

## 6.18 Workplace Privacy and Right to Inspect

North Fork Boutique Gardens property, including but not limited to lockers, phones, computers, tablets, desks, work place areas, vehicles, or machinery, remains under the control of the Company and is subject to inspection at any time, without notice to any employees, and without their presence.

You should have no expectation of privacy in any of these areas. We assume no responsibility for the loss of, or damage to, your property maintained on Company premises including that kept in lockers and desks.

## 7.0 Benefits

### 7.1 Holidays

North Fork Boutique Gardens offers the following paid holidays each year:

**New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Day after Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day.**

Eligible employees receive a paid holiday only if the holiday falls on a day they are normally scheduled to work.

Full-time employees are eligible for paid holidays after completing their introductory period.

Seasonal employees are only eligible for paid holidays that fall within their seasonal employ.

Seasonal employees are not eligible for the following paid holidays:

#### **New Years Day and Christmas Day**

Non-exempt employees must work their scheduled workday before and after the holiday in order to be paid for the holiday, unless you are absent with prior permission from your supervisor.

## **7.2 Military Leave (USERRA)**

North Fork Boutique Gardens complies with applicable federal and state law regarding military leave and re-employment rights. Unpaid military leave of absence will be granted to members of the uniformed services in accordance with the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA; with amendments) and all applicable state law. You must submit documentation of the need for leave to your Supervisor or appropriate department. When returning from military leave of absence, you will be reinstated to your previous position or a similar position, in accordance with state and federal law. You must notify your Supervisor of your intent to return to employment based on requirements of the law. For more information regarding status, compensation, benefits, and reinstatement upon return from military leave, contact your Supervisor or appropriate department.

## **7.3 Unemployment Compensation Insurance**

Unemployment compensation insurance is paid for by North Fork Boutique Gardens and provides temporary income for employees who have lost their job under certain circumstances. Your eligibility for unemployment compensation will, in part, be determined by the reasons for your separation from the Company.

## **7.4 Workers' Compensation Insurance**

Workers' compensation is a no-fault system designed to provide benefits to all employees for work-related injuries. Workers' compensation insurance coverage is paid for by employers and governed by state law. The workers' compensation system provides for coverage of medical treatment and expenses, occupational disability leave, and rehabilitation services, as well as payment for lost wages due to work related injuries. If you are injured on the job while working at North Fork Boutique Gardens, no matter how slightly, you are to report the incident immediately to your Supervisor. Consistent with applicable state law, failure to report an injury within a reasonable period of time could jeopardize your claim for benefits.

To receive workers' compensation benefits, notify your Supervisor immediately of your claim. If your injury is the result of an on-the-job accident, you must fill out an accident report. You will be required to submit a medical release before you can return to work.

# **8.0 Safety and Loss Prevention**

## **8.1 Drug and Alcohol Policy**

North Fork Boutique Gardens is committed to providing a safe, healthy, and productive work environment. Consistent with this commitment, it is the intent of the Company to maintain a drug and alcohol-free workplace. Being under the influence of alcohol, illegal drugs (as classified under federal, state, or local laws), or other impairing substances while on the job may pose a serious health and safety risk to others, and will not be tolerated.

### *Prohibited Conduct*

The Company expressly prohibits employees from engaging in the following activities when they are on duty or conducting Company business or on Company premises (whether or not they are working):

- The use, abuse, or being under the influence of alcohol, illegal drugs, or other impairing substances.
- The possession, sale, purchase, transfer, or transit of any illegal or unauthorized drug, including prescription medication that is not prescribed to the individual, or drug-related paraphernalia.
- The illegal use or abuse of prescription drugs.

While the use of marijuana has been legalized under some state laws for medicinal and/or recreational uses, it remains an illegal drug under federal law. The Company does not discriminate against employees solely on the basis of their lawful off-duty use of marijuana. You may not consume or be under the influence of marijuana while on duty or at work. If you have a valid prescription for medical marijuana, refer to the Company Disability Accommodation policy for additional information.

Nothing in this policy is meant to prohibit your appropriate use of over-the-counter medication or other medication that can legally be prescribed under both federal and state law, if it does not impair your job performance or safety or the safety of others. If you take over-the-counter medication or other medication that can legally be prescribed under both federal and state law to treat a disability, inform your Supervisor if you believe the medication may impair your job performance, safety, or the safety of others or if you believe you need a reasonable accommodation before reporting to work while under the influence of that medication.

#### Violations

Violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.

## **8.2 General Safety**

It is the responsibility of all North Fork Boutique Gardens employees to maintain a healthy and safe work environment, report any health or safety hazards, and follow the Company health and safety rules. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment. The Company also requires that all occupational illnesses or injuries be reported to your Supervisor as soon as reasonably possible and that an occupational illness or injury form be completed on each reported incident.

## **8.3 Workplace Violence**

As the safety and security of our employees, vendors, contractors, and the general public is in the best interests of North Fork Boutique Gardens, we are committed to working with our employees to provide a work environment free from violence, intimidation, and other disruptive behavior.

#### Zero Tolerance Policy

The Company has a zero tolerance policy regarding workplace violence and will not tolerate acts or threats of violence, harassment, intimidation, and other disruptive behavior, either physical or verbal, that occurs in the workplace or other areas. This applies to management, co-workers, employees, and non-employees such as contractors, customers, and visitors.

Workplace violence can include oral or written statements, gestures, or expressions that communicate a direct or indirect threat of physical harm, damage to property, or any intentional behavior that may cause a person to feel threatened.

#### Prohibited Conduct

Prohibited conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Physically injuring another person.
- Threatening to injure a person or damage property by any means, including verbal, written, direct, indirect, or electronic means.
- Taking any action to place a person in reasonable fear of imminent harm or offensive contact.
- Possessing, brandishing, or using a firearm on Company property or while performing Company business except as permitted by state law.
- Violating a restraining order, order of protection, injunction against harassment, or other court order.

#### Reporting Incidents of Violence

Report to your Supervisor or Human Resources, in accordance with this policy, any behavior that compromises our ability to maintain a safe work environment. All reports will be investigated immediately and kept confidential, except where there is a legitimate need to know. You are expected to cooperate in any investigation of workplace violence.

#### Violations

Violating this policy may subject you to criminal charges as well as discipline up to and including immediate termination of

employment.

### Retaliation

Victims and witnesses of workplace violence will not be retaliated against in any manner. In addition, you will not be subject to discipline for, based on a reasonable belief, reporting a threat or for cooperating in an investigation.

If you initiate, participate, are involved in retaliation, or obstruct an investigation into conduct prohibited by this policy, you will be subject to discipline up to and including termination.

If you believe you have been wrongfully retaliated against, immediately report the matter to your Supervisor or appropriate department.

## **9.0 Trade Secrets and Inventions**

### **9.1 Confidentiality and Nondisclosure of Trade Secrets**

As a condition of employment, North Fork Boutique Gardens employees are required to protect the confidentiality of Company trade secrets, proprietary information, and confidential commercially-sensitive information (i.e. financial or sales records/reports, marketing or business strategies/plans, product development, customer lists, patents, trademarks, etc.) related to the Company. Access to this information should be limited to a "need to know" basis and should not be used for personal benefit, disclosed, or released without prior authorization from management.

If you have information that leads you to suspect that employees are sharing such information in violation of this policy and/or competitors are obtaining such information, you are required to inform your Supervisor or Human Resources or appropriate department.

Violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination, and may subject the violator to civil liability.

## **10.0 Customer Relations**

### **10.1 Customer, Client, and Visitor Relations**

North Fork Boutique Gardens strives to provide the best products and services possible to our customers and clients. Our customers and clients support this business and generate your wages. You are expected to treat every customer, client, or visitor with the utmost respect and courtesy during your working time. You should never argue or act in a disrespectful manner towards a visitor or customer during your working time. If you are having problems with a customer, client, or visitor, notify your Supervisor immediately. If a customer, client, or visitor voices a suggestion, complaint, or concern regarding our products or services, inform your Supervisor or a member of management. Lastly, make every effort to be prompt in following up on customer, client, or visitor orders or questions. Positive customer, client, and visitor relations will go a long way to establishing our Company as a leader in its field.

# New York Policies

## Hiring and Orientation Policies

### Disability Accommodation

North Fork Boutique Gardens complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Pregnancy Discrimination Act, and all applicable state and local fair employment practices laws, and is committed to providing equal employment opportunities to qualified individuals with disabilities, including disabilities related to pregnancy, childbirth, and related conditions. Consistent with this commitment, the Company will provide reasonable accommodation to otherwise qualified individuals where appropriate to allow the individual to perform the essential functions of the job, unless doing so would create an undue hardship on the business.

If you require an accommodation because of your disability, it is your responsibility to notify your Supervisor. You may be asked to include relevant information such as:

- A description of the proposed accommodation.
- The reason you need an accommodation.
- How the accommodation will help you perform the essential functions of your job.

After receiving your request, the Company will engage in an interactive dialogue with you to determine the precise limitations of your disability and explore potential reasonable accommodations that could overcome those limitations. Where appropriate, we may need your permission to obtain additional information from your medical provider. All medical information received by the Company in connection with a request for accommodation will be treated as confidential.

The Company encourages you to suggest specific reasonable accommodations that you believe would allow you to perform your job. However, the Company is not required to make the specific accommodation requested by you and may provide an alternative accommodation, to the extent any reasonable accommodation can be made without imposing an undue hardship on the Company.

If leave is provided as a reasonable accommodation, such leave may run concurrently with leave under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act and/or any other leave where permitted by state and federal law.

The Company will not discriminate or retaliate against employees for requesting an accommodation.

### EEO Statement and Nonharassment Policy

#### Equal Employment Opportunity Policy

North Fork Boutique Gardens is committed to complying with all federal, state, and local equal employment laws. To that end, the Company is dedicated to maintaining a work environment that is free from harassment and discrimination on the basis of age, race, creed, color, national origin (including ancestry), religion, gender or sex, sexual orientation (including transgender status, gender identity or expression), pregnancy (including childbirth, lactation, and related medical conditions), disability, reproductive health decision making (including, but not limited to, the decision to use or access a particular drug, device, or medical service), marital status, domestic violence victim status, familial status, military status, genetic information (including genetic characteristics), or any other protected status under federal, state, or local laws. The Company is dedicated to the fulfillment of this policy with respect to all aspects of employment, including, but not limited to, recruiting, hiring, placement, transfer, training, promotion, compensation, termination, and all other terms, conditions, and privileges of employment.

The Company will conduct a prompt and thorough investigation of all allegations of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation, or any violation of the Equal Employment Opportunity Policy in a confidential manner. The Company will take appropriate

corrective action, if and where warranted. The Company prohibits retaliation against employees who provide information about, complain about, or assist in the investigation of any complaint of discrimination or violation of the Equal Employment Opportunity Policy.

We are all responsible for upholding this policy. You may discuss questions regarding equal employment opportunity with your Supervisor or any other designated member of management.

### *Policy Against Workplace Harassment*

North Fork Boutique Gardens has a strict policy against all types of workplace harassment, including sexual harassment and other forms of workplace harassment based upon an individual's age, race, creed, color, national origin (including ancestry), religion, gender or sex, sexual orientation (including transgender status, gender identity or expression), pregnancy (including childbirth, lactation, and related medical conditions), disability, reproductive health decision making (including, but not limited to, the decision to use or access a particular drug, device, or medical service), marital status, partnership status, caregiver status, domestic violence victim status, familial status, military status, unemployment status, genetic information (including genetic characteristics), or any other protected status under federal, state, or local laws. All forms of harassment of, or by, employees, vendors, visitors, customers, and clients are strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated.

### *Sexual Harassment*

The Company is committed to maintaining a workplace free from sexual harassment, which is unlawful and subjects the Company to liability. The Company prohibits any form of sexual harassment and all employees are required to work in a manner that prevents sexual harassment.

For additional information on sexual harassment, including how to file a claim, see the Sexual Harassment Policy.

### *Other Harassment*

Other workplace harassment is verbal or physical conduct that insults or shows hostility or aversion toward an individual because of the individual's age, race, creed, color, national origin (including ancestry), religion, gender or sex, sexual orientation (including transgender status, gender identity or expression), pregnancy (including childbirth, lactation, and related medical conditions), disability, reproductive health decision making (including, but not limited to, the decision to use or access a particular drug, device, or medical service), marital status, partnership status, caregiver status, domestic violence victim status, familial status, military status, unemployment status, genetic information (including genetic characteristics), or any other protected status under federal, state, or local laws.

Again, while it is not possible to list all the circumstances that may constitute other forms of workplace harassment, the following are some examples of conduct that may constitute workplace harassment:

- The use of disparaging or abusive words or phrases, slurs, negative stereotyping, or threatening, intimidating, or hostile acts that relate to the above protected categories;
- Written or graphic material that insults, stereotypes, or shows aversion or hostility toward an individual or group because of one of the above protected categories and that is placed on walls, bulletin boards, email, voicemail, or elsewhere on our premises, or circulated in the workplace; and
- A display of symbols, slogans, or items that are associated with hate or intolerance toward any select group.

### *Reporting Discrimination and Harassment*

If you feel that you have witnessed or have been subjected to any form of discrimination or harassment, immediately notify [[person or designated department]] or any member of management.

The Company prohibits retaliation against employees who provide information about, complain about, or assist in the investigation of any complaint of harassment or discrimination.

The Company will promptly and thoroughly investigate any claim and take appropriate action where we find a claim has

merit. To the extent possible, the Company will retain the confidentiality of those who report suspected or alleged violations of the harassment policy.

Discipline for violation of this policy may include, but is not limited to, reprimand, suspension, demotion, transfer, and discharge. If the Company determines that harassment or discrimination occurred, corrective action will be taken to effectively end the harassment. As necessary, the Company may monitor any incident of harassment or discrimination to assure the inappropriate behavior has stopped.

#### Alternative Reporting and Remedies

The Company encourages employees to report incidents of discrimination and harassment internally. However, employees who believe they have been subjected to discrimination or harassment in the workplace may file a private civil action or seek relief by either:

- Filing a complaint alleging violation of the New York State Human Rights law with the Division of Human Rights, or in the New York State Supreme Court; or
- Filing a charge of discrimination with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) for violation of federal antidiscrimination laws, including Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII).

To file a complaint, contact the appropriate agency below.

#### Contact Information

##### **New York Division of Human Rights**

One Fordham Plaza, Fourth Floor

Bronx, New York, NY 10458

718-741-8400

1-800-HARASS-3 (1-800-427-2773): Toll-free, confidential hotline for complaints of workplace sexual harassment

[www.dhr.ny.gov](http://www.dhr.ny.gov)

##### **Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)**

800-669-4000

TTY: 800-669-6820

[info@eeoc.gov](mailto:info@eeoc.gov)

[www.eeoc.gov](http://www.eeoc.gov)

Local jurisdictions may have additional protections against discrimination and harassment. For example, workers in New York City may file complaints of discrimination or harassment with the New York City Commission on Human Rights at:

##### **Law Enforcement Bureau**

Commission on Human Rights

40 Rector Street, 10th Floor

New York, NY 10006

212-306-7450

[www.nyc.gov/html/cchr/html/home/home.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/cchr/html/home/home.shtml)

If the discrimination or harassment involves criminal activity, contact local police.

In any civil action alleging a violation of the laws prohibiting sexual harassment and discrimination, a court may order or award:

- Damages including but not limited to back pay, benefits, and reasonable attorneys' fees and costs;
- Injunctive relief;
- Reinstatement; and/or
- Liquidated damages equal to 100 percent of the award for damages.

Any act of retaliation against New York employees for exercising any rights granted under this policy may subject the Company to separate civil penalties. For the purposes of this policy, **retaliation** or **retaliatory personnel action** means discharging, suspending, demoting, or otherwise penalizing employees for:

- Making or threatening to make a complaint to the Company, a coworker, or to a public body, that rights guaranteed under this policy have been violated;
- Causing to be instituted any proceeding under or related to this policy; or
- Providing information to or testifying before any public body conducting an investigation, hearing, or inquiry into any such violation of a law, rule, or regulation by the Company.

## Religious Accommodation

North Fork Boutique Gardens is dedicated to treating its employees equally and with respect and recognizes the diversity of their religious beliefs. All employees may request an accommodation when their religious beliefs cause a deviation from the Company dress code or the individual's schedule, basic job duties, or other aspects of employment. The Company will consider the request, but reserves the right to offer its own accommodation to the extent permitted by law. Some, but not all, of the factors that will be considered are cost, the effect that an accommodation will have on current established policies, and the burden on operations — including other employees — when determining a reasonable accommodation. At no time will the Company question the validity of a person's belief.

If you require a religious accommodation, speak with your Supervisor or appropriate department.

## Sexual Harassment Prevention

### Introduction

North Fork Boutique Gardens is committed to maintaining a workplace free from sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is a form of workplace discrimination. Sexual harassment is unlawful and subjects the Company to liability. The Company prohibits any form of sexual harassment and all employees are required to work in a manner that prevents sexual harassment in the workplace. This policy is one component of our commitment to a harassment-free and discrimination-free work environment.

You have the right to a workplace free from sexual harassment and can enforce this right by filing a complaint internally with the Company, with an administrative agency, or in a federal, state, or local court (if applicable).

### Policy

- **Application.** This policy applies to all employees, applicants for employment, interns (paid or unpaid), and "non-employees," regardless of immigration status. A non-employee is someone who is (or is employed by) a contractor,



subcontractor, vendor, consultant, or anyone providing services pursuant to a contract with the Company. Protected non-employees include persons commonly referred to as independent contractors, "gig" workers, and temporary workers. Also included are persons providing equipment repair, cleaning services, or any other services pursuant to a contract with the employer.

- **Sexual Harassment Prohibited.** Sexual harassment is prohibited. Sexual harassment is a form of misconduct and will not be tolerated. All employees or other individuals covered under this policy who engage in sexual harassment will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination.
- **Retaliation Prohibited.** The Company will not take an adverse employment action against any person covered by this policy who in good faith reports an incident of sexual harassment, provides information about an incident of sexual harassment, or otherwise assists in an investigation of a sexual harassment complaint. The Company will not tolerate retaliation against anyone who, in good faith, reports or provides information about suspected sexual harassment. Anyone who retaliates against another individual involved in a sexual harassment investigation will be subjected to disciplinary action, up to and including termination. All employees, interns, or non-employees in the workplace who believe they have been subjected to such retaliation should inform their Supervisor or Human Resources. All employees, paid or unpaid interns, or non-employees who believe they have been a target of such retaliation may also seek relief in other available forums, as explained below.
- **Liability for Sexual Harassment.** Sexual harassment is offensive, is a violation of Company policy, is unlawful, and subjects the Company to liability to victims of sexual harassment. Sexual harassers may also be individually subject to liability. Any individual, including management, who engages in sexual harassment or who allows such behavior to continue, will be penalized for such misconduct.
- **Investigation of Sexual Harassment Claims.** The Company will conduct a timely investigation when management receives a complaint about possible sexual harassment or otherwise knows of possible sexual harassment occurring. The Company will keep the investigation confidential to the extent possible. The Company will take corrective action when sexual harassment is found to have occurred. All employees, including managers and supervisors, are required to cooperate with any investigation of sexual harassment.
- **Reporting Sexual Harassment.** All employees and any other individuals covered by this policy are encouraged to report any behavior or conduct that violates the Company sexual harassment policy. A complaint form is provided below.
- **Reporting for Managers and Supervisors.** Managers and supervisors are required to report any sexual harassment complaint that they receive and any sexual harassment that they observe to their Human Resource Department.

#### Definition of Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination and is unlawful under federal, state, and (where applicable) local law. Sexual harassment includes harassment on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, self-identified or perceived sex, gender expression, gender identity, and the status of being transgender.

Sexual harassment is unlawful when it subjects an individual to inferior terms, conditions, or privileges of employment. Harassment need not be severe or pervasive to be unlawful and can be any harassing conduct that consists of more than petty slights or trivial inconveniences.

Sexual harassment includes unwelcome conduct that is either of a sexual nature or that is directed at an individual because of that individual's sex when:

- Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment, even if the complaining individual is not the intended target of the sexual harassment;
- Such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of employment; or
- Submission to or rejection of such conduct is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting an individual's employment.

A sexually harassing hostile work environment consists of words, signs, jokes, pranks, intimidation, or physical violence that are of a sexual nature. Sexual harassment also consists of any unwanted verbal or physical advances, sexually explicit derogatory statements, or sexually discriminatory remarks made by someone that are offensive or objectionable to the

recipient, that cause the recipient discomfort or humiliation, or that interfere with the recipient's job performance.

Unlawful sexual harassment is not limited to the physical workplace itself. It can occur while employees are traveling for business or at employer-sponsored events or parties. Calls, texts, emails, and social media usage by employees can constitute unlawful workplace harassment, even if they occur away from the workplace premises or not during work hours.

Sexual harassment also occurs when a person in authority tries to trade job benefits for sexual favors. This can include hiring, promotion, continued employment, or any other terms, conditions, or privileges of employment. This is called "quid pro quo" harassment.

Sexual harassment can occur between any individuals, regardless of their sex or gender.

Although it is not possible to identify every act that constitutes sexual harassment, the following are some examples:

- Physical acts of a sexual nature, such as:
- Touching, pinching, patting, grabbing, brushing against another employee's body or poking another employees' body; or
- Rape, sexual battery, molestation, or attempts to commit these assaults.
- Unwanted sexual advances, requests, or propositions, such as:
- Requests for dates after being informed that interest is unwelcome;
- Offers of employment benefits such as promotions, favorable evaluations, favorable duties, or shifts in exchange for sexual favors;
- Requests for sexual favors accompanied by implied or overt threats concerning the victim's job performance evaluation, a promotion, or other job benefits or detriments; or
- Subtle or obvious pressure for unwelcome sexual activities.
- Sexually oriented gestures, noises, remarks, jokes, or comments about a person's sexuality, sexual experience, sexual behavior, or physical appearance, which create a hostile work environment.
- Sex stereotyping occurs when conduct or personality traits are considered inappropriate simply because they may not conform to other people's ideas or perceptions about how individuals of a particular sex should look or act.
- Sexual or discriminatory displays or publications anywhere in the workplace, such as displaying emails, pictures, posters, calendars, graffiti, objects, promotional material, reading materials, or other materials that are sexually demeaning or pornographic (this includes sexual displays on workplace computers or cell phones and sharing these displays while in the workplace).
- Hostile actions taken against an individual because of that individual's sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and the status of being transgender, such as:
- Interfering with, destroying, or damaging a person's workstation, tools, or equipment, or otherwise interfering with the individual's ability to perform the job;
- Sabotaging an individual's work; or
- Bullying, yelling, or name-calling.

### Retaliation

Unlawful retaliation can be any action that could discourage a worker from coming forward to make or support a sexual harassment claim. Adverse action need not be job-related or occur in the workplace to constitute unlawful retaliation (for example, threats of physical violence outside of work hours).

The Company prohibits retaliation against an employee who engages in "protected activity," which occurs when an employee has:

- Filed a formal complaint of sexual harassment either internally with the Company or externally with an administrative agency or a court of law;
- Testified or assisted in an administrative or court proceeding involving sexual harassment;
- Opposed sexual harassment by making a verbal or informal complaint to management or by informing a supervisor or

- manager of harassment;
- Complained that another employee has been sexually harassed; or
- Encouraged a fellow employee to report harassment.

The Company anti-retaliation provision is not intended to protect persons making intentionally false charges of sexual harassment.

### Reporting Sexual Harassment

Preventing sexual harassment is everyone's responsibility. The Company cannot prevent or remedy sexual harassment unless we know about it. Reports of sexual harassment may be made verbally or in writing. If you believe you have been subjected to sexual harassment, or if you witness or become aware of potential instances of sexual harassment, complete a complaint form (at the end of this policy) and submit it to your Supervisor. If you are reporting sexual harassment on behalf of other employees, use the complaint form in this policy and note you are reporting on another's behalf.

### Supervisory Responsibilities

Supervisors and managers who receive a sexual harassment complaint or who observe sexual harassment are required to report that complaint or observation to Human Resources. Supervisors and managers who knowingly allow sexual harassment to occur and fail to report the sexual harassment will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination.

Supervisors and managers will also be subject to discipline for engaging in retaliation against anyone who reports sexual harassment.

### Investigation of Sexual Harassment Complaints

All complaints or information about sexual harassment will be investigated, whether that information was reported in verbal or written form. Investigations will be conducted in a timely manner and will be confidential to the extent possible.

An investigation of any complaint, information, or knowledge of suspected sexual harassment will be prompt and thorough, will commence immediately, and will be completed as quickly as possible. All persons involved, including complainants, witnesses, and alleged harassers will be accorded due process, as outlined below, to protect their rights to a fair and impartial investigation.

Any individual may be required to cooperate as needed in an investigation of suspected sexual harassment. The Company will not tolerate retaliation against employees who file complaints, support another's complaint, or participate in an investigation regarding a violation of this policy.

While the process may vary from case to case, investigations will generally include the following steps:

- Upon receipt of complaint, Human Resources will conduct an immediate review of the allegations and take any interim actions (such as instructing the respondent to refrain from communications with the complainant), as appropriate. If the complaint is verbal, you will be encouraged to complete the Complaint Form in writing. If you refuse, the Company may prepare a Complaint Form based on the verbal reporting.
- If documents, emails, or phone records are relevant to the investigation, the Company will take steps to obtain and preserve them.
- The Company will request and review all relevant documents, including all electronic communications.
- The Company will interview all parties involved, including any relevant witnesses.
- The Company will create a written documentation of the investigation (such as a letter, memo, or email) containing the following:
  - A list of all documents reviewed, along with a detailed summary of relevant documents;
  - A list of names of those interviewed, along with a detailed summary of their statements;
  - A timeline of events;
  - A summary of prior relevant incidents, reported or unreported; and

- The basis for the decision and final resolution of the complaint, together with any corrective action(s).
- The Company will keep the written documentation and associated documents in a secure and confidential location.
- The Company will promptly notify the individual who reported and the individual(s) about whom the complaint was made of the final determination and implement any corrective actions identified in the written document.
- The Company will inform the individual who reported of the right to file a complaint or charge externally as outlined in the next section.

### Legal Protections and External Remedies

Sexual harassment is not only prohibited by the Company but also by federal, state, and local law. In addition to our internal process, employees may choose to pursue legal remedies with the administrative agencies listed next.

#### Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)

The EEOC enforces federal antidiscrimination laws. Complaints can be filed with the EEOC within 300 days of the harassment. There is no cost to file a complaint with the EEOC. The EEOC will investigate the complaint and determine whether there is reasonable cause to believe that discrimination has occurred and will issue a "right to sue" letter permitting you to file a complaint in federal court. Federal courts may award you remedies if discrimination is found to have occurred, including back pay, front pay, and compensatory and punitive damages. The EEOC does not award relief but may take other action including pursuing cases in federal court on behalf of complaining parties.

If you believe you have been discriminated against, file a "charge of discrimination" with the EEOC. The EEOC has an office at 33 Whitehall Street, 5th Floor, New York, NY 10004. You can also contact the EEOC by phone (1-800-669-4000) or email ([info@eeoc.gov](mailto:info@eeoc.gov)). The EEOC's website is [www.eeoc.gov](http://www.eeoc.gov).

#### New York State Division of Human Rights (NYSDHR)

The New York State Human Rights Law (NYSHRL) prohibits sexual harassment against employees, interns (paid or unpaid), and "non-employees," a category that includes contractors, subcontractors, vendors, consultants, and any other person who provides services under a contract. You can file a sexual harassment complaint under the NYSHRL with the NYSDHR or in New York State court.

Complaints with the NYSDHR may be filed within one year of the sexual harassment. If you did not file at the NYSDHR, you can sue directly in state court under the NYSHRL within three years of the alleged harassment.

You may not file with the NYSDHR if you have already filed a NYSHRL complaint in state court. If you filed an administrative complaint with the NYSDHR, the NYSDHR will file the complaint with the EEOC to preserve the right to proceed in federal court.

Complaining internally to the Company does not extend your time to file with the NYSDHR or in state court. The one year or three years is counted from the date of the most recent sexual harassment incident.

You do not need an attorney to file a complaint with the NYSDHR and there is no cost to file a complaint.

The NYSDHR will investigate your complaint and determine whether there is probable cause to believe that discrimination has occurred. Probable cause cases are sent to a public hearing before an administrative law judge. If discrimination is found after a hearing, the NYSDHR has the power to award relief. Under the NYSHRL, courts may award back pay, front pay, compensatory damages, a civil monetary penalty, and attorney's fees.

The NYSDHR's main office is at One Fordham Plaza, Fourth Floor, Bronx, NY 10458. You can also contact the NYSDHR by phone (1-888-392-3644) or email ([info@dhr.ny.gov](mailto:info@dhr.ny.gov)). The NYSDHR's website is [dhr.ny.gov/complaint](http://dhr.ny.gov/complaint). The website has a complaint form that can be downloaded, filled out, notarized, and mailed to the NYSDHR. The website also contains contact information for the NYSDHR's regional offices. You may also file a complaint on the NYSDHR's toll-free, confidential hotline at 1-800-HARASS-3 (1-800-427-2773).

Other Localities

Other localities may have their own laws protecting individuals from sexual harassment. Contact the county, city, or town in which you live to find out if such a law exists. If the harassment involves unwanted physical touching, coerced physical confinement, or coerced sex acts, the conduct may constitute a crime. Contact the local police department.

Complaint Form for Reporting Sexual Harassment

**North Fork Boutique Gardens**

New York State Labor Law requires all employers to adopt a sexual harassment prevention policy that includes a complaint form for employees to report alleged incidents of sexual harassment.

If you believe that you have been subjected to sexual harassment, you are encouraged to complete this form and submit it to Human Resources. You will not be retaliated against for filing a complaint.

If you are more comfortable reporting verbally or in another manner, your employer should complete this form, provide you with a copy, and follow its sexual harassment prevention policy by investigating the claims as outlined at the end of this form.

**Complainant Information**

Name:

Work Address:

Work Phone:

Job Title:

Email:

Select Preferred Communication Method: (Email, Phone, In person)

**Supervisor Information**

Immediate Supervisor's Name:

Title:

Work Phone:

Work Address:

Complaint Information

1. Your complaint of sexual harassment is made against:

Name:

Title:

Work Address:

Work Phone:

Relationship to you: (supervisor; subordinate; co-worker; other)

Please describe the conduct or incident(s) that is the basis of this complaint and your reasons for concluding that the conduct is sexual harassment. Please use additional sheets of paper if necessary and attach any relevant documents or evidence.

Date(s) sexual harassment occurred:

Is the sexual harassment continuing? (Yes/No)

1. Please list the name and contact information of any witnesses or individuals that may have information related to your complaint:

*The last question is optional, but may help facilitate the investigation.*

2. Have you previously complained or provided information (verbal or written) about sexual harassment at North Fork Boutique Gardens? If yes, when and to whom did you complain or provide information?

If you have retained legal counsel and would like us to work with them, please provide their contact information.

Signature:

Date:

## **Wage and Hour Policies**

### **Accommodations for Nursing Mothers**

North Fork Boutique Gardens will provide nursing mothers at least 20 minutes unpaid break time once every three hours to express milk for their infant child(ren) for up to three years following the child's birth.

If you are nursing, the Company will make reasonable efforts to provide you a private room, other than a restroom, to express milk. The room will be clearly designated, in close proximity to work area, contain a chair and small table or other flat surface, and either have a lock or a sign on the door to indicate when the room is in use.

Expressed milk can be stored in company refrigerators or in a personal cooler. Sufficiently mark or label your milk to avoid confusion for other employees who may share the refrigerator.

You are encouraged to discuss the length and frequency of these breaks with your Supervisor.

### **Meal Periods**

North Fork Boutique Gardens strives to provide a safe and healthy work environment and complies with all federal and state regulations regarding meal periods. Under New York law:

- Workers employed in, or in connection with, a factory are entitled to a 60-minute unpaid meal period between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., and a 60-minute unpaid meal period midway between the beginning and end of any shift that starts between 1 p.m. and 6 a.m. and lasts more than six hours.
- Non-factory workers are entitled to a 30-minute unpaid meal period between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. for shifts six hours or longer that extend over that period, and a 45-minute unpaid meal period midway between the beginning and end of a shift that starts between 1 p.m. and 6 a.m. and lasts more than six hours.
- All workers are entitled to an additional 20-minute unpaid meal period between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. for workdays that extend from before 11 a.m. to after 7 p.m.

Applicable law also provides that the Company may limit meal periods to a minimum of 30 minutes as long as there is no indication of hardship to the employees.

You will not be required to work during your meal period unless otherwise permitted under applicable law.

Check with your Supervisor regarding procedures and schedules for meal periods.

The Company requests that employees accurately observe and record meal periods. If you know in advance that you may not be able to take your scheduled meal period or are not fully relieved of all duties, let your Supervisor know; in addition, notify your Supervisor as soon as possible if you were unable to take or were prohibited from taking a meal period.

## **Overtime**

If you are nonexempt, you may qualify for overtime pay. All overtime must be approved in advance, in writing, by your Supervisor.

At certain times North Fork Boutique Gardens may require you to work overtime. We will attempt to give as much notice as possible in this instance. However, advance notice may not always be possible. Failure to work overtime when requested or working unauthorized overtime may result in discipline, up to and including discharge.

Unless otherwise required or exempted by law, overtime pay of one and one-half times your regular rate of pay is paid for any hours worked in excess of 40 hours in a workweek. Holidays, vacation days, and sick leave days do not count as time worked for computing overtime.

## **Pay Period**

At North Fork Boutique Gardens, the standard pay period is weekly for all employees. Pay dates are **Fridays**. If a pay date falls on a holiday, you will be paid on the preceding workday. Special provisions may be required from time to time if holidays fall on pay dates. Check with your Supervisor if this type of date arises.

Review your paycheck for accuracy. If you find an issue, report it to your Supervisor immediately.

## **Wage Disclosure Protection**

In accordance with New York law, North Fork Boutique Gardens will not prohibit you from inquiring about, discussing, or disclosing your wages or the wages of other employees.

The Company limits inquiries about or the discussion or disclosure of the wages of employees to during designated breaks. You are prohibiting from discussing or disclosing the wages of another employee without that employee's prior permission.

If you have access to or knowledge of the compensation information of other employees as a part of your essential job functions, you may not disclose that information to individuals who do not otherwise have authorized access to it, unless the disclosure is:

- In response to a formal charge or complaint; or
- In furtherance of an investigation, proceeding, hearing, or other action (including an investigation conducted by the Company).

This policy does not require you to disclose your wages.

If you believe that you have been discriminated or retaliated against in violation of this policy, immediately report your concerns to Human Resources.

Failure to adhere to this policy may lead to corrective action including, but not limited to, termination.

Nothing in this policy will be enforced to interfere with, restrain or coerce, or retaliate against employees regarding their rights under the National Labor Relations Act, or any collective-bargaining agreement.

## Performance, Discipline, Layoff, and Termination

### Disciplinary Process

Violation of North Fork Boutique Gardens policies or procedures may result in disciplinary action including demotion, transfer, leave without pay, or termination of employment. The Company encourages a system of progressive discipline depending on the type of prohibited conduct. However, the Company is not required to engage in progressive discipline and may discipline or terminate employees who violate the rules of conduct, or where the quality or value of their work fails to meet expectations at any time. Again, any attempt at progressive discipline does not imply that your employment is anything other than on an "at-will" basis.

In appropriate circumstances, management will first provide you with a verbal warning, then with one or more written warnings, and if the conduct is not sufficiently altered, eventual demotion, transfer, forced leave, or termination of employment. Your Supervisor will make every effort possible to allow you to respond to any disciplinary action taken. Understand that while the Company is concerned with consistent enforcement of our policies, we are not obligated to follow any disciplinary or grievance procedure and that depending on the circumstances, you may be disciplined or terminated without any prior warning or procedure.

## Benefits

### Accommodations for Victims of Domestic Violence

North Fork Boutique Gardens will provide reasonable accommodations to employees who are victims of domestic violence who must be absent from work for a reasonable time, unless such accommodation would cause an undue hardship on the Company.

Accommodations include reasonable time off to:

- Seek medical attention for injuries caused by domestic violence, including for a child who is the victim of domestic violence;
- Obtain services from a domestic violence shelter, program, or rape crisis center as a result of domestic violence;
- Obtain psychological counseling related to an incident or incidents of domestic violence, including for a child who is the victim of domestic violence;
- Participate in safety planning or other action taken to increase safety from future incidents of domestic violence (e.g., temporary or permanent relocation); or
- Obtain legal services, assist in the prosecution of an offense, or appear in court related to an incident of domestic violence.

A **victim of domestic violence** is any person who is older than 16, married, or is a parent accompanied by a minor child in a situation where the individual or minor child is the victim of an act committed by a family or household member in violation of New York penal law. The act must have resulted in actual physical or emotional injury or created a substantial risk of physical or emotional harm to the person or their child.

### Notice

You must provide reasonable advance notice of your intention to take time off for the above reasons unless advanced notice is not feasible. If an unscheduled absence occurs, you must provide the following documentation within a reasonable amount of time after your absence:

- A police report indicating that you or your child was a victim of domestic violence;



- A court order protecting or separating you or your child from the perpetrator of the domestic violence;
- Other evidence from the court or prosecuting attorney that you appeared in court; or
- Documentation from a medical professional, domestic violence advocate, health care provider, or counselor that you or your child underwent counseling or treatment for physical or mental injuries or abuse resulting from the domestic violence.

Confidentiality

The Company will maintain the confidentiality of any information regarding your status as a victim of domestic violence, except as required by federal or state law or as necessary to protect your safety in the workplace.

Compensation

The time off may be charged against any paid time off to which you are entitled. If you have no available paid time off, the time off may be treated as unpaid time.

Retaliation

The Company will not retaliate against a victim of domestic violence for requesting or obtaining reasonable accommodation in accordance with this policy.

**Blood and Bone Marrow Donation Leave**

North Fork Boutique Gardens provides those employees who work an average of 20 or more hours per week:

- Up to three hours of unpaid leave in any calendar year to donate blood. You must give reasonable notice of at least three working days of your intent to take leave to give blood. Provide documentation to your Supervisor immediately after such leave is taken.
- Unpaid time off, as determined by your physician, not to exceed 24 hours without Company approval to undergo a medical procedure to donate bone marrow. If you seek leave to donate bone marrow, you must provide verification from a physician setting forth the purpose and length of each leave required.

The Company will not retaliate against employees who request or take leave in accordance with this policy.

**COVID-19 Sick Leave**

If you are, or your minor dependent child is, subject to an individual order of mandatory or precautionary quarantine or isolation issued by New York State, the New York State Department of Health, a local board of health, or any other government entity authorized to issue such order due to COVID-19 (Individual Quarantine Order), you may be eligible for paid and/or unpaid leave in addition to paid family leave benefits (PFLB) and disability benefits (DB).

Program Specifics

For the duration of the Individual Quarantine Order, the Company is required to provide you with **unpaid sick leave** and you may be eligible for compensation by applying for PFLB and DB.

Leave will be provided without the loss of any accrued sick leave.

Eligibility

You are not eligible for leave if you are deemed asymptomatic or have not yet been diagnosed with a medical condition and are physically able to work remotely or through other means while under an Individual Quarantine Order.

If you have returned to the United States after non-business-related travel to a country from which the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued a level two or three travel health notice, you are not eligible for these benefits if you were provided notice of the travel advisory, were warned that you would not be eligible for such benefits if you elected to travel to such countries, and chose to travel anyway. All employees in this category are entitled to use any accrued leave

provided by the Company. If you do not have any accrued leave, you may use unpaid leave for the duration of the quarantine or isolation.

### Restoration

Upon return from leave, you will be restored to the same position you held prior to the leave with the same pay and other terms and conditions of your employment.

### How to Apply for Benefits

Information on how to apply for DB and/or PFLB when you are under an Individual Quarantine Order is available at <https://paidfamilyleave.ny.gov/if-you-are-quarantined-yourself#how-to-apply>.

### Business Closure

If the Company temporarily closes or goes out of business due to COVID-19, you may not be eligible for the above-mentioned benefits and should immediately apply for unemployment insurance. The unemployment insurance benefits one-week waiting period has been waived. Information on how to file a claim can be obtained at <https://labor.ny.gov/unemploymentassistance.shtm>.

### Discrimination and Retaliation

The Company will not discriminate or retaliate against employees who take leave in accordance with this policy.

## **COVID-19 Vaccination Leave**

North Fork Boutique Gardens will provide all employees sufficient paid leave to obtain a COVID-19 vaccination. **Sufficient paid leave** means up to four hours per vaccine injection.

If the need for leave is foreseeable, provide as much advance notice as possible and make reasonable efforts to schedule the leave so that it does not unduly disrupt Company operations. If unforeseeable, provide notice as soon as practical.

You will be compensated at your regular rate of pay for the time missed from work. The leave will not be charged against any other leave benefit to which you are entitled, including sick leave.

The Company will not retaliate against employees who request or take leave in accordance with this policy.

This policy expires on December 31, 2023.

## **Crime Victim and Witness Leave**

North Fork Boutique Gardens will provide eligible employees with time off from work, without pay, for any of the following reasons:

- To comply with a subpoena to testify in a criminal proceeding (including time off to consult with the district attorney);
- To give a victim impact statement at a pre-sentencing proceeding;
- To give a statement at a sentencing proceeding; or
- To give a statement at a parole board hearing.

You are eligible for time off under this policy if you are:

- The victim of the crime at issue in the proceedings;
- The victim's next of kin;
- The victim's representative if the victim is deceased as a result of the offense;
- A "Good Samaritan"; or
- Pursuing an application or the enforcement of an order of protection as provided under relevant law.

For purpose of this policy:

- **Good Samaritan** means someone who acts in good faith to apprehend a person who has committed a crime in his or her presence, to prevent a crime or an attempted crime from occurring, or to aid a law enforcement officer in effecting an arrest.
- **Victim's representative** means a person who represents or stands in the place of another person, including but not limited to, an agent, attorney, guardian, conservator, executor, heir, or parent of a minor.

If you are required to attend a criminal proceeding either as a witness or as a crime victim (or a close family member of a crime victim), you must notify your Supervisor as soon as possible and at least one day before taking leave to make scheduling arrangements. The Company reserves the right to require employees to provide proof of the need to attend the criminal proceedings to the extent authorized by law.

The Company will not retaliate against employees who request or take leave in accordance with this policy.

## **Disability Benefits**

If you are unable to work for more than seven consecutive days due to a non-work-related illness or injury, or pregnancy-related disability, you may be eligible for disability benefits. Disability benefits provide up to 26 weeks of partial wage replacement benefits during any 52-consecutive-week period. Benefits are payable beginning on the eighth consecutive day of disability.

The cost of your disability insurance coverage is shared between you and the Company through payroll deductions.

If you have been disabled for more than seven days, the Company will provide you with a Form DB-271S, *Statement of Rights*, within five days of learning that you are disabled. The *Statement of Rights* provides information on how to file a claim for benefits. You must file a claim within the first 30 days of your disability or all or part of your claim may be rejected. You must be under the care of a physician, chiropractor, podiatrist, psychologist, dentist, or certified nurse midwife to qualify for disability benefits.

Disability benefits are a wage replacement benefit, not a protected leave benefit. If you are temporarily disabled, you may be eligible for job-protected leave under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act or other state or local law.

To learn more about the New York Disability Benefits law, including eligibility requirements and benefits, or to obtain a claim form (Form DB-450), contact the New York State Workers' Compensation Board ([www.wcb.ny.gov](http://www.wcb.ny.gov)).

## **Jury Duty Leave**

North Fork Boutique Gardens encourages employees to fulfill their civic duties related to jury duty. If you are summoned for jury duty, notify your Supervisor as soon as possible to make scheduling arrangements.

You will be paid a minimum of \$40 per day for the first three days of juror service or any part thereof. For any additional days, time spent on jury duty will be unpaid.

The Company reserves the right to require employees to provide proof of jury duty service to the extent authorized by law.

The Company will not retaliate against employees who request or take leave in accordance with this policy.

## **Military Spouse Leave**

North Fork Boutique Gardens provides up to 10 days of unpaid leave to employees who are the spouse of a military member who is home on leave during a period of military deployment.

To be eligible for military spouse leave you must:

- Work an average of 20 or more hours per week; and
- Be the spouse of a member of the U.S. Armed Forces, National Guard, or Reserves who has been deployed during a period of military conflict to a combat theater or combat zone of operations.

A **period of military conflict** means a period of war declared by the U.S. Congress or a period during which a member of the Reserves is ordered to active duty under federal authority.

If you need to take military spouse leave, notify your Supervisor as soon as reasonably possible. The Company reserves the right to ask for documents supporting the need for leave.

You may elect to use any available paid time off for which you are eligible under Company policy for the purpose of taking military spouse leave, and such paid time off will run concurrently with the leave afforded under this policy.

The Company will not discriminate or retaliate against employees who request or take leave in accordance with this policy.

## **Paid Family Leave**

New York's Paid Family Leave (PFL) program provides eligible employees with job-protected, paid time off to:

- Bond with a newly born, adopted, or fostered child.
- Care for a close relative with a serious health condition.
- Assist with family situations when a family member is deployed abroad on active military service.

### Eligibility

Eligible employees may take PFL leave as follows:

- If you work **full time** (a regular schedule of 20 or more hours per week), you are eligible after 26 consecutive weeks of employment.
- If you work **part time** (a regular schedule of less than 20 hours per week), you are eligible after working 175 days, which do not need to be consecutive.

### Amount of Benefit

You will be provided up to 12 weeks of leave at 67 percent of your weekly pay (capped at 67 percent of statewide average pay).

You may use accrued leave in order to receive full pay while on PFL.

### Funding

PFL is funded through employee payroll contributions that are set each year to match the cost of coverage. The rate of employee contributions is reviewed annually and is subject to change by the New York State Department of Financial Services.

If you are not eligible for PFL, you will be provided a waiver to sign and PFL contributions will not be deducted from your wages.

### Qualifying Events

If you are eligible, you may use family leave benefits for the following types of leaves:

- **New child:** You may take PFL during the first 12 months following the birth, adoption, or fostering of a child. Expectant mothers cannot take PFL for their own pregnancy. PFL for the birth of a child begins after the child's birth and is not available for prenatal conditions.
- **Serious health condition:** You may take PFL to care for a close relative with a serious health condition. The relative may live outside of New York State and even outside the country. You cannot take PFL for your own health condition.

- **Military active service deployment:** You may take PFL to assist with family situations arising when your spouse, domestic partner, child, or parent is deployed abroad on active military service or has been notified of an impending military deployment abroad. You cannot use PFL for your own qualifying military event.

As used in this policy:

- **Close relative** includes a spouse, domestic partner, child and stepchild, parent and stepparent, parent-in-law, grandparent and grandchild.
- **Serious health condition** is an illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition, including transplantation preparation and recovery from surgery related to organ or tissue donation, that involves inpatient care in a hospital, hospice, or residential medical facility; or continuing medical treatment or continuing supervision by a health care provider.

#### Health Insurance

Your health insurance will continue while you are on leave; however, if you contribute to the cost of your health insurance, you must continue to pay your portion of the premium cost while on leave.

#### Interaction with Other Laws

PFL may be taken by employees who are eligible for time off under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act. PFL will run concurrently with designated FMLA leave when the reason for leave qualifies under both PFL and FMLA. Eligible employees must then apply for both PFL and FMLA.

You may not receive short-term disability and PFL benefits at the same time. You may not take more than 26 combined weeks of short-term disability and PFL in a 52-week period.

If you are unable to work and qualify for workers' compensation benefits, you may not use PFL benefits at the same time as you are receiving workers' compensation benefits. If you are receiving reduced earnings, you may be eligible for PFL.

#### Notice and Required Documentation

Notify Human Resources if you intend to claim entitlement to PFL. If your family leave is foreseeable, give 30 days' advance notice so the Company can plan for your absence. If the event was not foreseeable, notify Human Resources as quickly as possible. If you fail to give notice without unusual circumstances justifying the failure, PFL may be delayed or partially denied.

You must provide documentation in support of your PFL request within 30 days after the leave begins. The Company may require additional proof from time to time but not more often than once a week. Proof must include a statement of disability from the leave recipient's health care provider.

#### Returning to Work

On return from PFL, you will be reinstated to your original position, or if no longer available, an equivalent position with equivalent terms and conditions of employment, including pay and employment benefits.

Use of PFL will not result in the loss of any employment benefit that accrued before the start of your family leave that was not used during your family leave.

#### Retaliation

The Company will not retaliate against employees who request or take leave in accordance with this policy.

#### Additional Information

If you have additional questions regarding PFL, contact Human Resources or visit <https://paidfamilyleave.ny.gov/>.

## **Paid Sick Leave (Frontloading Method)**

North Fork Boutique Gardens provides paid sick leave to eligible employees in accordance with New York law.

### Eligibility

All employees are eligible for sick leave.

### Reasons for Leave

Sick leave may be used for the following purposes:

- For your own or a family member's mental or physical illness, injury, or health condition regardless of whether such illness, injury, or health condition has been diagnosed or requires medical care at the time that you request leave;
- For the diagnosis, care, or treatment of your own or a family member's mental or physical illness, injury, or health condition or need for medical diagnosis or preventive care; or
- For your absence from work when you or your family member has been the victim of domestic violence, a family offense, sexual offense, stalking, or human trafficking and you need to:
  - Obtain services from a domestic violence shelter, rape crisis center, or other services program;
  - Participate in safety planning, temporarily or permanently relocate, or take other actions to increase your safety or the safety of your family members;
  - Meet with an attorney or other social services provider to obtain information and advice on, and prepare for or participate in any criminal or civil proceeding;
  - File a complaint or domestic incident report with law enforcement;
  - Meet with a district attorney's office;
  - Enroll children in a new school; or
  - Take any other actions necessary to ensure your or a family member's health or safety or to protect those who associate or work with you.

If you are responsible for the domestic violence, family offense, sexual offense, stalking, or human trafficking, you are not eligible for leave under this policy.

### **Family member** means:

- Your child, spouse, domestic partner, parent, sibling, grandchild, or grandparent; or
- The child or parent of your spouse or domestic partner.

### **Parent** means:

- Your biological, foster, step- or adoptive parent; or
- A person who acted as your legal guardian or a person who stood in loco parentis when you were a minor child.

### **Child** means:

- Your biological, adopted, or foster child;
- A legal ward; or
- A child for which you stand in loco parentis.

### Amount of Leave and Usage

Eligible employees will be provided 40 hours of sick leave at the beginning of each leave year. For purposes of this policy, the leave year is a calendar year.

The minimum increment of leave that you may take at one time is four hours. Unused sick leave will carry over to the following leave year; however, you may still only use 40 hours of sick leave in a leave year.

### Compensation

You will be paid at your regular rate of pay or the applicable minimum wage, whichever is greater.

### Notice

If the need for leave is foreseeable, you must provide reasonable notice of your need for leave. If unforeseeable, provide notice as soon as practical. If known, notice should include the expected length of the absence.

### Confidentiality

Details surrounding your request for leave will be kept confidential, except as required by federal or state law or as necessary to protect your safety in the workplace. You will not be required to disclose the nature of any medical condition or of any domestic violence/sexual offense matter necessitating the need for leave.

### Recordkeeping

You may request (verbally or in writing) a summary of the amounts of sick leave you have accrued and used in the current calendar year and/or any previous calendar year. This information will be provided within three business days.

### Payment upon Termination

You will not be paid for any unused sick leave when your employment ends.

### Retaliation

The Company will not retaliate against employees who request or take leave in accordance with this policy.

## **Voting Leave**

North Fork Boutique Gardens encourages all employees to fulfill their civic responsibility and to vote in public elections. Most work schedules provide sufficient time to vote either before or after working hours. If the polls are open for at least four consecutive hours before or after the work shift, you will be deemed to have sufficient time outside of work hours to vote.

If you do not have sufficient time before or after work to vote, you may take enough time off at the beginning or end of your work shift to vote. Up to two hours' time off for this purpose will be provided without loss of pay.

You must request time off to vote from your Supervisor at least two working days prior to Election Day so that the necessary time off can be scheduled at the beginning or end of the work shift, whichever provides the least disruption to normal business operations.

The Company will not retaliate or tolerate retaliation against employees who request or take leave under this policy. If you believe that you are being retaliated against because you requested or took leave under this policy, immediately report it to your Supervisor or Human Resources.

## **Safety and Loss Prevention**

### **Airborne Infectious Disease Exposure Prevention Plan**

#### **I. RESPONSIBILITIES**

This plan applies to all employees of North Fork Boutique Gardens Inc., and [all]/[the following work sites]:

2450 Elijah's Lane, Mattituck, N.Y. 11952

This plan requires commitment to ensure compliance with all plan elements aimed at preventing the spread of infectious disease. The following supervisory employee(s) are designated to enforce compliance with the plan. Additionally, these supervisory employees will act as the designated contacts unless otherwise noted in this plan:

**Name Title Location Phone**

Deborah Rodgers

President/Owner

2450 Elijahs Lane, Mattituck, NY 11952

631-734-6832

Matthew Purcell

Director of Operations

2450 Elijahs Lane, Mattituck, NY 11952

631-734-6832

Kathryn Donoghue

Controller

2450 Elijahs Lane, Mattituck, NY 11952

631-734-6832

**II. EXPOSURE CONTROLS DURING A DESIGNATED OUTBREAK A. MINIMUM CONTROLS DURING AN OUTBREAK**

During an airborne infectious disease outbreak, the following minimum controls will be used in all areas of the worksite:

1. **General Awareness:** Individuals may not be aware that they have the infectious disease and can spread it to others.

Employees should remember to:

- Maintain physical distancing;
- Exercise coughing/sneezing etiquette;
- Wear face coverings, gloves, and personal protective equipment (PPE), as appropriate;
- Individuals limit what they touch;
- Stop social etiquette behaviors such as hugging and hand shaking, and
- Wash hands properly and often.

**"Stay at Home Policy":** If an employee develops symptoms of the infectious disease, the employee should not be in the workplace. The employee should inform the designated contact and follow New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance regarding obtaining medical care and isolating.

**Health Screening:** Employees will be screened for symptoms of the infectious disease at the beginning of their shift. Employees are to self-monitor throughout their shift and report any new or emerging signs or symptoms of the infectious disease to the designated contact. An employee showing signs or symptoms of the infectious disease should be removed



from the workplace and should contact a healthcare professional for instructions. The health screening elements will follow guidance from NYSDOH and CDC guidance, if available.

**Face Coverings:** When in use, face coverings must cover the nose and mouth, and fit snugly, but comfortably, against the face. The face covering itself must not create a hazard (e.g., have features could get caught in machinery or cause severe fogging of eyewear). The face coverings must be kept clean and sanitary and changed when soiled, contaminated, or damaged.

• **Effective February 10, 2022:** Employees will wear appropriate face coverings in accordance with guidance from State Department of Health or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as applicable. Consistent with the guidance from the State Department of Health, if indoor areas do not have a mask or vaccine requirement as a condition of entry, appropriate face coverings are recommended, but not required. It is also recommended that face coverings be worn by unvaccinated individuals, including those with medical exemptions, in accordance with federal CDC guidance. Further, the State's masking requirements continue to be in effect for pre-K to grade 12 schools, public transit, homeless shelters, domestic violence shelters, correctional facilities, nursing homes, health care, child care, group homes, and other sensitive settings in accordance with CDC guidelines. New York State and the State Department of Health continue to strongly recommend face coverings in all public indoor settings as an added layer of protection, even when not required.

1. **Physical Distancing:** Physical distancing will be used, to the extent feasible, as advised by guidance from State Department of Health or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as applicable.

*In situations where prolonged close contact with other individuals is likely, use the following control methods:*

- restricting or limiting customer or visitor entry;
- limiting occupancy;
- allowing only one person at a time inside small enclosed spaces with poor ventilation;
- reconfiguring workspaces;
- physical barriers;
- signage;
- floor markings;
- telecommuting;
- remote meetings;
- preventing gatherings;
- restricting travel;
- creating new work shifts and/or staggering work hours;
- adjusting break times and lunch periods;
- delivering services remotely or through contactless pickup;

1. **Hand Hygiene:** To prevent the spread of infection, employees should wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol to clean hands BEFORE and AFTER:

- Touching your eyes, nose, or mouth;
- Touching your mask;
- Entering and leaving a public place; and
- Touching an item or surface that may be frequently touched by other people, such as door handles, tables, gas pumps, shopping carts, or electronic cashier registers/screens.

Because hand sanitizers are less effective on soiled hands, wash hands rather than using hand sanitizer when your hands are soiled.

**Cleaning and Disinfection:** See Section V of this plan.

**"Respiratory Etiquette":** Because infectious diseases can be spread by droplets expelled from the mouth and nose, employees should exercise appropriate respiratory etiquette by covering nose and mouth when sneezing, coughing or yawning.

**Special Accommodations for Individuals with Added Risk Factors:** Some employees, due to age, underlying health condition, or other factors, may be at increased risk of severe illness if infected. Please inform your supervisor or the HR department if you fall within this group and need an accommodation.

## B. ADVANCED CONTROLS DURING AN OUTBREAK

For activities where the Minimum Controls alone will not provide sufficient protection for employees, additional controls from the following hierarchy may be necessary. Employers should determine if the following are necessary:

**Elimination:** Employers should consider the temporary suspension or elimination of risky activities where adequate controls could not provide sufficient protection for employees.

**Engineering Controls:** Employers should consider appropriate controls to contain and/or remove the infectious agent, prevent the agent from being spread, or isolate the worker from the infectious agent. Examples of engineering controls include:

### i. Mechanical Ventilation:

#### a. Local Exhaust Ventilation, for example:

- Ventilated booths (lab hoods);
- Kitchen Vents; and
- Vented biosafety cabinets.

#### b. General Ventilation, for example:

- Increasing the percentage of fresh air introduced into air handling systems;
- Avoiding air recirculation;
- Utilize air filters with rating of Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value (MERV) 13 or higher, if compatible with the HVAC system(s). If MERV-13 or higher filters are not compatible with the HVAC system(s), use filters with the highest compatible

filtering efficiency for the HVAC system(s);

- If fans are used in the facility, arrange them so that air does not blow directly from one worker to another. Remove personal fans as necessary but keep heat hazards in mind and address in other methods if appropriate;

- Air purifiers

ii. Natural Ventilation, for example:

- Opening outside windows and doors; and

- Opening windows on one side of the room to let fresh air in and installing window exhaust fans on the opposite side of the room so that they exhaust air outdoors.

- Automatic disinfection systems such as ultraviolet light disinfection systems.

- Install cleanable barriers such as partitions and clear plastic sneeze/cough guards.

- Install additional timeclocks to avoid overcrowding. Consider touch free options.

- Modify the alignment of workstations, so that workers are separated in all directions. Use markings and signs to remind workers to remain at their designated stations;

- Install hand washing or sanitizing stations throughout facility and in the field.

- Install automatic disinfection systems (e.g., ultraviolet light disinfection systems).

- Install cleanable barriers such as partitions and/or clear plastic sneeze/cough guards.

- Change layout to avoid points or areas where employees may congregate (e.g., install additional timeclocks).

Subject to changes based on operations and circumstances surrounding the infectious disease, engineering controls that are anticipated to be used are listed in the following table:

### **Engineering Controls Utilized/Location:**

*Note to Employer: One of the best ways to reduce exposure to infectious agents is to improve ventilation. The aim is to deliver more "clean air" into an occupied area and exhaust the contaminated air to a safe location. In some cases, the air may have to be filtered before it enters the work area and/or before it is exhausted. Direct the contaminated air away from other individuals and from the building's fresh air intake ports. Consult your ventilation system's manufacturer or service company to determine if improvements are possible for your system.*

1. "Administrative Controls" are policies and work rules used to prevent exposure. Examples include:

- Increasing space between workers;

- Slowing processing and production speed to accommodate fewer workers at a time;

- Disinfecting procedures for specific operations;

- Employee training;

- Identify and prioritize job functions that are essential for continuous operations;

- Cross-train employees to ensure critical operations can continue during worker absence;
- Limit the use of shared workstations;
- Post signs reminding of respiratory etiquette, masks, hand hygiene;
- Rearrange traffic flow to allow for one-way walking paths;
- Provide clearly designated entrance and exits;
- Provide additional short breaks for handwashing and cleaning;
- Establishing pods or cohorts working on same shift;
- Clean equipment prior to handoff;
- Limit attendance of in-person meetings (pre-shift meeting and safety meetings). Host meetings outdoors;
- Clean transport vehicles routinely;
- If sharing vehicles for transport, ensure all riders are wearing face covers; and
- Prohibit eating and drinking in the work area. Employer Provided Housing:
- Prohibit sharing of unwashed dishes, utensils, and cups;
- Ensure common areas (Kitchens, bathrooms, living areas) are effectively cleaned;
- Label food containers in storage and refrigeration;
- Provide cleaning products for employer provided housing;
- Space beds according local, state or federal authorities;
- Store personal hygiene items so that they cannot be used or touched by others;
- Assign a housing monitor to ensure infectious disease controls are in place;
- Maximize opportunities to place individuals residing together in the same vehicles for transportation and in the same cohorts to limit exposure; and
- Provide detergent for employer provided washing machines.

Subject to changes based on operations and circumstances surrounding the infectious disease, the following specific administrative controls are anticipated to be used:

**Administrative Controls Utilized/Location:**

1. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Devices like eye protection, face shields, respirators, and gloves that protect the wearer from infection. PPE will be provided, used and maintained in a sanitary and reliable condition at no cost to the employee. The PPE provided to an employee will be based on a hazard assessment for the workplace. The following PPE that are anticipated to be used are in the following table:

## **PPE Required - Activity Involved/Location:**

*1 The use of respiratory protection, e.g. an N95 filtering facepiece respirator, requires compliance with the OSHA Respiratory Protection Standard 29 CFR 1910.134 or temporary respiratory protection requirements OSHA allows for during the infectious disease outbreak.*

*2 Respirators with exhalation valves will release exhaled droplets from the respirators. Respirators are designed to protect the wearer. Surgical masks and face coverings, which are not respirators, are designed to protect others, not the wearer.*

## **C. EXPOSURE CONTROL READINESS, MAINTENANCE AND STORAGE**

The controls we have selected will be obtained, properly stored, and maintained so that they are ready for immediate use in the event of an infectious disease outbreak and any applicable expiration dates will be properly considered.

## **III. HOUSEKEEPING DURING A DESIGNATED OUTBREAK**

### **A. Disinfection Methods and Schedules**

Objects that are touched repeatedly by multiple individuals, such as door handles, light switches, control buttons/levers, dials, levers, water faucet handles, computers, phones, or handrails must be cleaned frequently with an appropriate disinfectant. Surfaces that are handled less often, or by fewer individuals, may require less frequent disinfection.

The disinfection methods and schedules selected are based on specific workplace conditions.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have compiled lists of approved disinfectants that are effective against many infectious agents (see [dec.ny.gov](https://dec.ny.gov) and [epa.gov/pesticide-registration/selected-epa-registered-disinfectants](https://epa.gov/pesticide-registration/selected-epa-registered-disinfectants)). Select disinfectants based on NYSDOH and CDC guidance and follow manufacturer guidance for methods, dilution, use, and contact time.

### **B. Adjustments to Normal Housekeeping Procedures**

Normal housekeeping duties and schedules should continue to be followed during an infectious disease outbreak, to the extent practicable and appropriate consistent with NYSDOH and/or CDC guidance in effect at the time. However, routine procedures may need to be adjusted and additional cleaning and disinfecting may be required.

Housekeeping staff may be at increased risk because they may be cleaning many potentially contaminated surfaces. Some housekeeping activities, like dry sweeping, vacuuming, and dusting, can resuspend into the air particles that are contaminated with the infectious agent. For that reason, alternative methods and/or increased levels of protection may be needed.

Rather than dusting, for example, the CDC recommends cleaning surfaces with soap and water before disinfecting them. Conducting housekeeping during "off" hours may also reduce other workers' exposures to the infectious agent. Best practice dictates that housekeepers should wear respiratory protection. See [cdc.gov](https://cdc.gov) for more guidance.

C. If an employee develops symptoms of the infectious disease at work, it is ideal to isolate the area in accordance with guidance issued by NYSDOH or the CDC, before cleaning and disinfecting the sick employee's work area. This delay will allow contaminated droplets to settle out of the air and the space to be ventilated.

D. As feasible, liners should be used in trash containers. Empty the containers often enough to prevent overfilling. Do not forcefully squeeze the air out of the trash bags before tying them closed. Trash containers may contain soiled tissue or face coverings.

#### IV. INFECTION RESPONSE DURING A DESIGNATED OUTBREAK

If an actual, or suspected, infectious disease case occurs at work, take the following actions:

- Instruct the sick individual to wear a face covering and leave the worksite and follow NYSDOH/CDC guidance.
- Follow local and state authority guidance to inform impacted individuals.

#### V. TRAINING AND INFORMATION DURING A DESIGNATED OUTBREAK

A. Kathryn Donoghue and/or designated supervisor will verbally inform all employees of the existence and location of this Plan, the circumstances it can be activated, the infectious disease standard, employer policies, and employee rights under the HERO Act. (Note: training need not be provided to the following individuals: any individuals working for staffing agencies, contractors or subcontractors on behalf of the employer at any individual work site, as well as any individual delivering goods or transporting people at, to or from the work site on behalf of the employer, where delivery or transport is conducted by an individual or entity that would otherwise be deemed an employer under this chapter)

B. When this plan is activated, all personnel will receive training which will cover all elements of this plan and the following topics:

The infectious agent and the disease(s) it can cause;

The signs and symptoms of the disease;

How the disease can be spread;

An explanation of this Exposure Prevention Plan;

The activities and locations at our worksite that may involve exposure to the infectious agent;

The use and limitations of exposure controls

A review of the standard, including employee rights provided under Labor Law, Section 218-B.

C. The training will be provided at no cost to employees and take place during working hours. If training during normal work hours is not possible, employees will be compensated for the training time (with pay or time off);

Appropriate in content and vocabulary to your educational level, literacy, and preferred language; and

Verbally provided in person or through telephonic, electronic, or other means.

#### VI. PLAN EVALUATIONS DURING A DESIGNATED OUTBREAK

The employer will review and revise the plan periodically, upon activation of the plan, and as often as needed to keep up-to-date with current requirements. Document the plan revisions below:

##### **Plan Revision History**

**Date**

**Participants**

## **Major Changes**

## **Approved By**

### VII. RETALIATION PROTECTIONS AND REPORTING OF ANY VIOLATIONS

No employer, or his or her agent, or person, acting as or on behalf of a hiring entity, or the officer or agent of any entity, business, corporation, partnership, or limited liability company, shall discriminate, threaten, retaliate against, or take adverse action against any employee for exercising their rights under this plan, including reporting conduct the employee reasonably believes in good faith violates the plan or airborne infectious disease concerns to their employer, government agencies or officials or for refusing to work where an employee reasonably believes in good faith that such work exposes him or her, other workers, or the public to an unreasonable risk of exposure, provided the employee, another employee, or representative has notified the employer verbally or in writing, including electronic communication, of the inconsistent working conditions and the employer's failure to cure or if the employer knew or should have known of the consistent working conditions.

Notification of a violation by an employee may be made verbally or in writing, and without limitation to format including electronic communications. To the extent that communications between the employer and employee regarding a potential risk of exposure are in writing, they shall be maintained by the employer for two years after the conclusion of the designation of a high risk disease from the Commissioner of Health, or two years after the conclusion of the Governor's emergency declaration of a high risk disease. Employer should include contact information to report violations of this plan and retaliation during regular business hours and for weekends/other non-regular business hours when employees may be working.

## **Workplace Smoking**

North Fork Boutique Gardens is concerned about the effect that smoking and secondhand smoke inhalation can have on its employees and clients. Smoking in the office, client areas, and restrooms is prohibited.

# Closing Statement

Thank you for reading our handbook. We hope it has provided you with an understanding of our mission, history, and structure as well as our current policies and guidelines. We look forward to working with you to create a successful Company and a safe, productive, and pleasant workplace.

Courtney Lampasona, Human Resources

North Fork Boutique Gardens



# Acknowledgment of Receipt and Review

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have received a copy of the North Fork Boutique Gardens Employee Handbook (handbook) and that I have read it, understand it, and agree to comply with it. I understand that the Company has the maximum discretion permitted by law to interpret, administer, change, modify, or delete the rules, regulations, procedures, and benefits contained in the handbook at any time with or without notice. No statement or representation by a supervisor, manager, or any other employee, whether oral or written, can supplement or modify this handbook. Changes can only be made if approved in writing by the Owner of the Company. I also understand that any delay or failure by the Company to enforce any rule, regulation, or procedure contained in the handbook does not constitute a waiver on behalf of the Company or affect the right of the Company to enforce such rule, regulation, or procedure in the future.

I understand that neither this handbook nor any other communication by a management representative or other, whether oral or written, is intended in any way to create a contract of employment. I further understand that, unless I have a written employment agreement signed by an authorized Company representative, I am employed "at-will" (to the extent permitted by law) and this handbook does not modify my "at-will" employment status.

If I am covered by a written employment agreement (signed by an authorized Company representative) or a collective bargaining agreement that conflicts with the terms of this handbook, I understand that the terms of the employment agreement or collective bargaining agreement will control.

This handbook is not intended to preclude or dissuade employees from engaging in legally protected activities under the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA). This handbook is not intended to violate any local, state, or federal law. No provision or policy applies or will be enforced if it conflicts with or is superseded by any requirement or prohibition contained in federal, state, or local law, or regulation. Furthermore, nothing in this handbook prohibits an employee from reporting concerns to, filing a charge or complaint with, making lawful disclosures to, providing documents or other information to, or participating in an investigation or hearing conducted by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), or any other federal, state, or local agency charged with the enforcement of any laws.

This handbook supersedes any previous handbook or policy statements, whether written or oral, issued by North Fork Boutique Gardens.

If I have any questions about the content or interpretation of this handbook, I will contact your Supervisor.

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Signature

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Date

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Print Name

I agree, and it is my intent, to sign this document electronically, and that signing and submitting this document electronically is the legal equivalent of having placed my handwritten signature on it.

Signature

x

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. McKelvey", is written over a horizontal dashed line.

Date: 10/12/2022 09:24:38 EDT