



CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

A Message from the CEO

March 13, 2020

Dear Families:

Thank you for choosing the YMCA Afterschool Program. On behalf of our Before and After School team, we are honored to provide your child(ren) with an engaging, fun, memory filled and safe program experience.

As the Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation evolves, the safety of the children in our care and our employees is paramount. We assure you that we are closely monitoring the situation, and will follow recommendations from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) and our licensing agency (EEC).

Today's Announcement by Boston Public Schools

Monday, March 16th – Final Day of Classes in Boston Public Schools

Boston Public Schools has suspended all non-school day activities. This means the YMCA's Before and After School Programs will not be available at your child's school. In response, we are providing families with full day programming at our local YMCAs for those who are able to transport their children. Your child will have the ability to access full day programming at the XXX YMCA.

Providing Full Day Programming with Boston Schools Closing

In an effort to protect the health and wellness of your child and slow the spread of the virus, we recommend you keep your child home during this time.

At the same time, we realize that not all families have a choice to stay home with their children. So, we will provide full day programming for families in need of care during this challenging time. The program will be held at your local YMCA, and open from 8am to 6pm. Your child will have the ability to access care at the XXX YMCA.

What the YMCA of Greater Boston is Doing

We are taking extensive precautions to help prevent the spread of the Coronavirus. First and foremost, the YMCA is ensuring that the cleanliness of our program sites is maintained at the highest standards.

We are and will continue to:

- Require staff with contagious illness and symptoms to stay home
- Screening of all staff and children each day
- Keep you informed of any known exposure to contagious illness
- Use a cleaning products effective in killing flu germs and bacteria
- Disinfect all shared surfaces before and after use, including tables, toys and equipment



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- Disinfect all toys mouthed by young children after each use
- Ensure daily cleaning of bathrooms, floors and common areas
- Teach, remind and model best practices for handwashing with both staff and children
- Plan and implement handwashing time before and after eating, food handling and toileting
- Teach, remind and model coughing/sneezing into the elbow with both staff and children

What We are Asking You to Do

Parents are important partners in keeping children and staff healthy and preventing the spread of illness. Parents should:

- Keep your children home when they are sick with fever and/or other contagious illness
- Keep the program informed when your child is absent, and notify the Program Director if your child has been tested/diagnosed with any contagious illnesses
- Teach, remind and model proper handwashing
- Teach, remind and model coughing/sneezing into the elbow
- Ensure your child is getting enough sleep and eating well

In addition, families and staff traveling internationally and/or exposed to someone with the Coronavirus are being asked to inform your Program Director and not return to the program for 14 days from the date of potential exposure or returning to the U.S..

Thank you for partnering with us to provide the healthiest environment possible for our children. Please visit the following link to the CDC for information on prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention.html>. Attached is a resource from the National Association of School Psychologists about talking to children about the Coronavirus.

We appreciate you choosing the Y, and are here to support you and answer questions as they arise.

The YMCA of Greater Boston is deeply committed to the health and wellness of all. We will continue to monitor the situation, communicate openly, and support you and your family by providing safe and nurturing places for everyone we serve. We are stronger together, and together we will get through this.

Sincerely,

James O'S. Morton
President and CEO, YMCA of Greater Boston