



March 10, 2020

Dear Families:

Thank you for choosing the YMCA Afterschool Program. We are honored to provide your child(ren) with an engaging, fun, memory filled and safe afterschool 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).

What We Know about the Coronavirus

The coronavirus is a novel respiratory disease that has been spreading globally since late 2019. It presents a threat due to its newness, its contagiousness, and the lack of a vaccine or a clear treatment plan. The [World Health Organization](#), the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), and local health officials are the trusted sources for the most accurate information, as well as updates on the status of vaccines and treatments that are currently in development.

The coronavirus, which originated in Wuhan, China, has now spread to other countries and presents a higher health risk in people who have visited, or come into contact with people from the following exposed countries: South Korea, Italy, Japan, Iran, as well as Singapore and Hong Kong.

Coronavirus is highly infectious. It is estimated that about 80 percent of people who are affected experience mild symptoms. Also, it has been reported that children do not appear to be more susceptible to coronavirus than adults.

What the YMCA of Greater Boston is Doing

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

We are and will continue to:

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



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

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 to areas with known outbreaks of coronavirus and/or exposed to someone with coronavirus are being asked to inform your Program Director and not return to the program for 14 days from potential exposure.

Thank you for partnering with us to provide the healthiest environment possible for our children to thrive. 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 coronavirus.

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

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