



**March 6, 2020**

**Dear valued YMCA member,**

At the YMCA of Greater Boston the health of our members is a top priority. In light of the growing concern about coronavirus (COVID-19), we are sharing what we know about the virus so far, what the YMCA of Greater Boston is doing to prevent the spread of the illness, and what you can do.

### **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 branches are kept to the highest standards.

Throughout our branches, we are increasing cleaning protocols, have sanitation wipes, tissues and additional hand sanitizers readily available for all members, and encourage everyone to wipe down all equipment prior to and after use.

In addition, we are providing all branches with flyers that contain tips from the CDC and the Y on how to prevent the spread of coronavirus. The tips include:

- Upon entering or exiting the Y, utilize the hand sanitizer located in the branch.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, before leaving the Y and especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash, or cough or sneeze into your elbow if necessary.

We also have plans in place should we need to support our community during this period of uncertainty. We are here to serve as the need arises.

### **What You Can Do**

*Stay Informed* – The CDC provides a comprehensive overview of "[What You Should Know About the Coronavirus](#)"

*Stay Home* – if you are feeling sick or have recently traveled to a location with confirmed COVID-19 cases, do not go to public places or take public transportation.

*Practice Good Hygiene* – Good habits include the ones provided above.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Morton", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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