



# CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

## A Message from the CEO

March 14, 2020

### Dear Valued Members and Families:

With the closing of schools across greater Boston and the need to provide the most essential services for the most vulnerable amongst us, we are confronted with a moment of truth. When schools close, children lose two meals daily – breakfast and lunch. For low income families, these may be the only complete meals some children receive in a given day. Likewise, thousands of parents depend upon us for early education and before and after-school care. For these families, the services we offer are essential.

In light of the uncertainty created by the closure of schools and the increased threat of the Coronavirus, we must focus our resources of time, talent and treasure on those amongst who are at the greatest risk – our children. We have, therefore, elected to close our fitness centers and pools on Monday, March 16, and utilize our facilities to feed children and to care for the youth and teens in the communities we serve. We will encourage families to keep their children at home; however, it goes without saying that some parents must work and some parents are first responder and “essential” employees who must work to protect us. These families need safe and reliable places for their children.

We will engage a strategy that enabled us to serve more than 837,000 meals and snacks to children in 2019, as well as a strategy that saw us serve the needs of 65,000 youth and teens. In the coming weeks, the need for food and services for children will increase exponentially. We must step up and act consistently with our legacy.

Since our inception in 1851, we have always been that organization that walked in the direction of the challenge. Today, we are being asked to make a choice; either we close our branches entirely in order to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus or we feed and care for children while taking the calculated risk that we can protect them from exposure to the virus. We cannot stand by and permit children to go hungry or to be traumatized by their lack of options.

We ask that you join us in the effort. We ask that you continue to pay your membership fee so that we can use this revenue to “do good” during the time of uncertainty. Naturally, we will put your membership on hold, but if you want to join us in service to others, we invite you to join us. We know your membership is meaningful to us and that “meaning” lies in the relationships you have built at the Y. Those relationships are based upon the humanity you share with others. We are asking you to support us in service of “our” children. The Coronavirus has created enormous uncertainty; however, how we manage it is in our control. Join us in creating a history that demonstrates how we came together and served those who needed us the most. Let us tell the story of the “meaningful” ways in which we responded. Let that be the story that is told.

As members, we do not want you to think we do not care about you and your health and wellness. In fact, your YGB app provides on-demand workouts, and we are adding other virtual and live stream classes within



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the next couple of days. We are working on the details of a very, very exciting partnership. These workouts will enable you and your family to exercise together from home. Needless to say, we will reopen at first chance, and hope that you will find it in your heart to continue to support us.

In your humble service,

James O'S. Morton  
President and CEO, YMCA of Greater Boston  
YMCA of Greater Boston  
316 Huntington Avenue  
Boston, MA 02115  
jamesmorton@ymcaboston.org  
617-279-3233

**Download the YGB app to access on-demand workout videos:**

Download in the [Apple Store](#) Download in [Google Play](#)

**Please contact your local YMCA of Greater Boston branch with any questions.**

Burbank YMCA 781-944-9622 36 Arthur B. Lord Drive, Reading, MA 01867	Charles River YMCA 781-449-6646 380 Chestnut Street, Needham, MA 02492
Charlestown YMCA 617-286-1220 150 3rd Avenue, Charlestown, MA 02129	Dorchester YMCA 617-436-7750 776 Washington Street, Dorchester, MA 02124
East Boston YMCA 617-569-9622 215 Bremen Street, East Boston, MA 02128	YMCA Achievers at Egelston 3134 Washington Street, Roxbury, MA 02119
Huntington Ave YMCA 617-927-8060 316 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02115	North Suburban YMCA 781-935-3270 137 Lexington Street, Woburn, MA 01801
Oak Square YMCA 617-782-3535 615 Washington Street, Brighton, MA 02135	Parkway Community YMCA 617-323-3200 1972 Centre Street, West Roxbury, MA 02132
Roxbury YMCA 617-427-5300 285 M.L.K Boulevard, Roxbury, MA 02119	Thomas M. Menino YMCA 617-361-2300 1137 River Street, Hyde Park, MA 02136
Waltham YMCA 781-894-5295 725 Lexington Street, Waltham, MA 02452	Wang YMCA of Chinatown 617-426-2237 8 Oak Street West, Boston, MA 02116
YMCA Training, Inc. 617-542-1800 18 Tremont St., Suite 400, Boston, MA 02108	YMCA International Learning Center 617 927-8244 100 Franklin Street, Boston, MA 02110 and 523 Main Street, Woburn, MA 01801