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YMCA of Greater Boston to Close Fitness Centers in Order to make Space to Feed and Care for Children

Branches will remain open to provide food, child care and teen programming for families with no other options

BOSTON, Mass. – (March 15, 2020) The YMCA of Greater Boston, a [leading non-profit](#) in the Boston community, announced that beginning Monday March 16 all branches will close their fitness centers and pools, until further notice, in response to the spread of coronavirus. During this time branches will be utilized to feed children and care for the youth and teens in the communities served by the YMCA. The YMCA of Greater Boston is exploring ways to expand its capacity to safely feed and service more youth and teens.

During this time, the YMCA will encourage families to keep their children at home; however, for those parents who are first responders and “essential” employees who must work, we will provide a safe and nurturing places for their children.

“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,” said James O’S. Morton President and CEO of The YMCA of Greater Boston. “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, the YMCA will focus resources of time, talent and treasure on those amongst who are at the greatest risk – our children. In the coming weeks, with the need for food and services for children increasing exponentially, the YMCA will activate a strategy that has enabled them to serve more than 837,000 meals and snacks to children in 2019, while also serving the needs of 65,000 youth and teens.

The YMCA of Greater Boston also has several resources members can access to support their health and wellness while the fitness centers remained closed. Members

may access their YGB app for on-demand workouts and in the next couple days virtual and live stream classes will be added. These workouts will enable families to exercise together from home.

For more information on how to support the YMCA of Greater Boston and their programs visit: <https://ymcaboston.org/>

About the YMCA of Greater Boston:

The [YMCA of Greater Boston](#) is one of Massachusetts leading nonprofits committed to strengthening communities by improving health, empowering youth and activating people for good. Every day the Y works with thousands of men, women, and children to ensure that everyone, regardless of age, income or background, has access to Y programs and services. As the nation's fifth largest charity, the Y is creating a community of caring people through meaningful memberships. For more than 165 years, the Y has been developing skills and emotional well-being through education and training, welcoming and connecting diverse populations, preventing chronic disease and building healthier communities. The YMCA of Greater Boston is America's first Y.