

Sunday, March 15, 2020

Dear YMCA Friends-

The La Crosse Area Family YMCA is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for everyone who enters our doors. Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19), we find ourselves responding to unique challenges that require innovative solutions. We recognize that our responsive actions, including those we are sharing today, may raise questions for many of you. While we do not have all the answers at this moment, please know we are working diligently to find answers and solutions.

Out of caution, and with the recommendations on social distancing from the CDC and our local La Crosse County Health Department, the La Crosse Area Family YMCA is taking action to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and maintain a healthy community. Please note the following:

- **At this point our facilities and Childcare Center (at the Houser Y) will remain open. Of course, if there is community spread of COVID-19, further facility decisions will be made.**
- **We have made the decision to cancel ALL YMCA programs, classes, activities and events effective March 16, 2020, until further notice (this includes Child watch).**
- **Exceptions will be one on one private lessons and personal training.**
- **During this time, we are asking our members to limit their visits to the Y to two hours maximum.**
- **During this time we will not be allowing members to bring guests to the Y and we will not be selling or issuing day passes.**
- **Watch for exercise alternatives, including virtual classes, coming soon. Keep an eye on the Y's Facebook page for updates.**
- **It is important that you continue to check back on the Y's website for regular updates. We will do our very best to keep you up to date on our operations as we make changes that align with the recommendations from the CDC, the La Crosse County Health Department, and the YMCA of the USA.**
- **The staff that will be in our facilities will focus largely on cleaning and the member experience.**
- **Our goal is to be open for our members to come in and work out to promote health and well-being while also practicing social distancing.**
- **Stay home if you are sick.**
- **Your health is our priority. The YMCA has significantly heightened its cleaning process to help keep you safe.**

School Age Childcare programs (before and after care), will be closed the days your respective school is closed. When schools are not open, we know you look to the Y for your childcare needs. This is why as an organization; we are currently and quickly evaluating the childcare needs in our community. We want to support this community coming together to ensure we can keep our healthcare facilities and other critical agencies in operation to their fullest capacity during these uncertain times. Information on potential emergency school age child care will be communicated soon. The Y is balancing how to support those in our community that are supporting others during this unprecedented time.

We understand that this situation is changing rapidly so there may be additional facility and childcare scheduling modifications going forward. We believe that the quickest means to defeating this virus is by working together. Please adhere to all healthy hygiene practices as outlined by the CDC including:

- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.
- 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.
- Stay home if you are sick.

In addition, if you or someone in your household have used mass transit outside of the immediate La Crosse area, we recommend limiting your exposure to others. We are recommending that you do not utilize YMCA facilities for 14 days after returning from your trip.

You can find the most up-to-date information on our website at www.laxymca.org. We have also included links to the state of Wisconsin and CDC websites for the most recent updates on the situation.

Thank you for your continued patience, partnership, and loyalty through this difficult time. We are doing what we can to meet critical community needs, provide some sense of normalcy while working to mitigate the spread of this virus.

Be Well,

Bill Soper
CEO