



Dear Members of the YWCA Central Maine Community,

Given the very dynamic and serious public health challenge that our community is facing right now due to COVID-19, we have made the difficult decision to close all Aquatics programming as of March 16th until further notice. As a busy community center serving a large number of constituents from young children to the elderly, we believe that it is prudent to close our non-essential programming to reduce the possibility of exposures from the general public and proactively help the community to slow the spread of COVID-19. This action is consistent with the wave of closures happening now in public and independent schools, athletic/aquatics facilities, senior centers, and community centers.

As mentioned on Friday March 13th, in order to maintain appropriate social distancing while flattening the curve of any potential transmission we have also postponed all youth sports activities (all swim teams), community gatherings and events as well as community-based programming/partnerships on and offsite. Additionally, we will be postponing any splash party rentals currently booked through the end of March. We will also be temporarily closing access to our Census lab and will offer telephone technical support in the meantime.

As an organization whose mission supports working families, our childcare center will remain open for families who continue to rely on us for their childcare needs during this difficult time. We are taking steps necessary to provide full food access for the children currently enrolled in our program. We will be suspending all new childcare registrations until further notice in order to provide essential care to our currently enrolled families. Beginning March 16th, children exhibiting symptoms of illness and fever will be sent home immediately and we will be enforcing measures to take children's temperatures. In an effort to continue to provide this essential service, we will be temporarily limiting access to our building to include YWCA staff, board, childcare families, and necessary vendors/contractors. We will continue to take preventative measures and disinfect regularly and ask that that families take general health precautions such as frequent hand-washing, covering coughs and sneezes, and keeping your children home if they exhibit any signs of illness.

For those worried about general food access, we are currently partnering with other community organizations and are developing internal plans to meet the necessary

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basic food needs of our children and our community and we will share information on these resources as they become available.

We appreciate your understanding and patience as we navigate uncharted waters together with our constituents, the municipality and other nonprofits in the community. This situation continues to evolve rapidly and is subject to change based on new information from the Maine CDC.

The community has always wrapped around the YWCA community in difficult times. If you or someone you know is interested in supporting our efforts to continue our essential programming and increase our food supply in order to meet the new demand of our childcare programming please consider donating to our nonprofit <https://ywcamaine.org/get-involved/support-the-ywca/#Donate>.

For updated information and announcements, please continue to follow us on social media and visit www.ywcamaine.org. In the meantime, please stay healthy.

Respectfully,

Melanie LaMore Gagnon



Executive Director
YWCA Central Maine

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