



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF THE MUSKEGON
LAKESHORE**

Thursday, March 12, 2020

Dear Boys & Girls Club Community,

Our commitment to keeping the young people we serve safe is always our number one priority. Following the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak, it's important that you know that Boys & Girls Club of the Muskegon Lakeshore (BGCML) is doing everything possible to keep your children, our staff, and volunteers protected from its spread. We are also closely monitoring reports from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and our local health department for all updated information.

As a reminder, we recommend these preventive actions, suggested by the State of Michigan, that every family should take to prevent exposure to COVID-19.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Follow CDC's recommendations for using a facemask:
 - CDC *does not* recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.
 - Facemasks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others.

Wash your hands often:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- It takes an average of 11.8 seconds to sing the entire *Happy Birthday* song, so if you sing it twice, that will ensure you've scrubbed long enough. This is a great method to share with children in your family. While this measure is simple, it is effective.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
- For more information about handwashing, see CDC's Handwashing website
- The CDC also provides specific guidance for travelers.

At this time local school districts have not suggested closing BGCML Club sites, therefore all BGCML sites will remain open. In addition to the above CDC recommendations, BGCML is taking the below precautions:

- Educate Club members about COVID-19 and preventative hygiene practices.
- Eliminate all large group activities and meetings.
- Ensure hand hygiene supplies are readily accessible throughout the Club
- Have members eat meals in their classrooms as opposed to a cafeteria-like setting, or alter meal schedules for smaller-group gatherings.
- Report influenza-like activity, absenteeism, and potential school dismissals to public health official.
- Cancel all non-essential Club travel and transportation such as field trips.

At this time, there is no evidence that children are more susceptible. Children should engage in usual preventive actions to avoid infection, including cleaning hands often using soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer, avoiding people who are sick, and staying up to date on vaccinations, including influenza vaccine.

Because this is a rapidly evolving situation, information will be updated on BGCML's website (bgclubmuskegon.com) as additional guidance becomes available. Our commitment to you and your children is unwavering, and our goal will continue to be to provide a safe and welcoming place for all youth in our community.

Dakota Crow
Chief Professional Officer

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