



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

March 17, 2020

Dear YMCA Members,

At the Y, the health and safety of all who walk through our doors has always been our top priority. Effective 03/17/2020 through 03/31/2020, the Newton YMCA will be voluntarily closed and all programming and events temporarily suspended with the exception of our child care facility. We believe by keeping the child care facility open, we can support our working families in this time of need. We are exploring alternative ways to meet community needs during this time, in partnership with health officials and other community leaders.

Although no member or staff have tested positive for COVID-19 at our facilities, we believe that continuing to operate and run programming during this time would be counterproductive to the protective social distancing measures that have prompted area K-12 schools to temporarily close in response to growing concern over the COVID-19 pandemic. The priority is to flatten the curve of the COVID-19 virus so that our hospitals do not become overloaded.

We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and thank our members for their patience and understanding. We remain committed to supporting and strengthening our communities. We believe this is the socially responsible thing to do and we do not take this measure lightly.

Our Y leadership team remains in constant contact with state and local agencies and we will continue to communicate with members in a timely and transparent manner. The Y will reassess the situation in two weeks and, in conjunction with prevailing recommendations from federal and local officials, we will update our members no later than 03/28/2020 via our website regarding the status of our facilities and programming moving forward.

Remember, the CDC recommends everyday preventative actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID- 19 and the flu, including:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
- Stay home when you are sick and return to the Y when you are feeling better
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available

Please continue to check with the [Department of Public Health](#) and the national [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) for the most up to date information regarding COVID-19.

Thank you for working with us to ensure our YMCA community remains safe and healthy.

Lucas Hughes. CEO – Newton YMCA

## **FAQs**

**We understand that you may have questions about the closure of our YMCA facilities:**

### **When will the Y open again?**

We have planned a 2-week closure at this time. The Y will reassess the situation and will update members no later than 03/28/2020 regarding the status of facilities and programming from that point forward.

### **Has any Newton YMCA members tested positive for COVID-19?**

No. At this time, we are not aware of any members who have tested positive for COVID-19.

### **What is the Y doing during this two-week closure?**

The Y will be doing a deep sanitizing clean during the 2-week closure. We will also be bringing some of our offerings to members virtually through social media. When you can't come to the Y, we will do our best to bring the Y to you! Follow YMCA on Facebook and stay connected to your community.

### **I was in the Y recently, should I be concerned?**

We all need to be aware of the potential spread of the virus and monitor ourselves and loved ones for COVID-19 symptoms of fever, cough, and shortness of breath. If you or a loved one develop these symptoms please stay home and speak to your healthcare provider. For more information go to the CDC information page on COVID-19 to learn [What You Need To Know](#) and [What To Do If You Are Sick](#).

### **Do I have to pay my membership fees while the YMCA is closed?**

In order for the YMCA to continue providing the level of care and support for this community, we are asking all members to donate the remainder of their membership dues to the YMCA in this time of need. If you are willing to donate – We will draft your membership as normal – If you prefer not to donate at this time, the YMCA will prorate/credit the difference of our time closed in the following month. If you choose to donate, thank you! If you choose not to donate at this time, we ask that you let our leadership staff know at your earliest convenience.