

## Message from YMCA of Door County

March 17, 2020

Good Morning YMCA Members & Community Members,

We are all being inundated with information about the COVID 19 Virus which is spreading across our nation and the effects it is having on our daily lives. As you might appreciate, with 9,000 members, we are receiving many questions about how this pandemic is affecting and may alter our future operation. My job as your CEO is to make certain we are doing all we can to provide facilities which are clean, well maintained and safe for our members to use and enjoy. It is also my responsibility to make certain we have a plan in place to address future operational challenges. You are also keenly aware that the landscape changes daily and planning for the future is difficult at best.

I am certain you are now aware that our schools across the State have been directed to close until April 6th. The reality of school closing will dramatically effect our day to day business. Beginning this Wednesday, March 18th, we will:

- **Maintain our regular hours of operations but will not allow youth members under the age of 18 to use our Y program centers in Sturgeon Bay and Fish Creek weekdays from opening to 4pm.** Now, more than ever, we need to recognize that we cannot serve everyone all of the time under any circumstances. We do not have the staff or the facilities to provide childcare for multiple school districts. It would be irresponsible to bring large groups of children together.
- **Discontinue all of our youth class programming for children under the age of 18 including Kid Care.** We will offer program credit or refunds (or members can contribute the program balance to the Annual Campaign to assist our operations during this period of disruption in our business operations).
- **Close our Barker Child Care Center on Egg Harbor Road.** Charges for care will be suspended for the next billing cycle. Once we resume operations all currently enrolled children will be welcomed back. We will hold their spot for two weeks following the announcement of the resumption of normal operations.
- **Within the week we will work to provide child care at our Barker Center (for infants through children 4K) and a "camp program" (for children in kindergarten through fifth grade) weekdays at our program centers for the children of individuals who are on the front line in providing medical and other critical services to our community.** This will include children of health care workers, government employees directly related to the COVID 19 VIRUS pandemic and our YMCA staff (who will staff the special youth programming and keep our facilities and programs clean and operating). Fees for these special services will be the same as our existing child care program and camp fees.
- **Discontinue in person meetings of our specialty programs which involve high risk individuals, i.e. LIVESTRONG® for cancer survivors, our Diabetes Prevention Program and our Parkinson classes, R.I.D.E.4 Kids and R.I.D.E.**

I can share with you that we are beginning to consider the challenges we might face should our YMCA facilities be directed to close. Should we experience an incident where we become aware that a member or guest is confirmed to have COVID 19 Virus, we will immediately close our Y for several days, do an extensive deep cleaning, reopen and then resume programming as deemed appropriate. Should we be directed by the appropriate governmental agency to close, we will work to provide some level of virtual, online programming. We of course will provide program and membership credit and offer to put memberships on hold at no cost. (Of course we would welcome and appreciate your direction to apply credits to our Annual Campaign to assist with our operations during the period of operational disruption).

You may be wondering if there is anything you can do to help us while we work through this challenging time. As always, volunteers are at the heart of our operation. If you have time and want to help, we are assembling a volunteer group to help us make certain we giving special attention to wiping down railings and door knobs, cleaning weighs and basketballs, etc. Please let us know if you want to help. You will be welcomed and your efforts appreciated.

Please know that we have not made these plans in isolation. We have been in constant contact with our Y USA national offices, our YMCA colleagues throughout the state and with our local schools and medical community.

I wish that I could share with you that we are in some way exempt from the challenges we face with the COVID 19 Virus. Sadly I cannot. I believe our YMCA is critical to the day to day life of many of our residents. We will remain open as long as it is responsible and safe to do so. We will make appropriate adjustments to our operations as are current circumstance deem necessary. What I can share with you with great certainty is that these days of challenge will pass and we will be a stronger organization and community at the end of the day because we came together as a YMCA family and community and rose above this serious challenge.

As always I welcome your thoughts and comments and will welcome the day that this time of challenge is behind us. Thank you for your commitment to the Y and I hope you and your family continue to enjoy good health.



Tom Beerntsen, CEO  
Door County YMCA