

It's important that you know the safety and protection of your children is the number one priority of Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Queens. We are doing everything possible to keep our Club members, staff and volunteers protected from the COVID-19 virus.

We continue to monitor all updates from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and health department for updated information. We are advising all staff, families, and youth members to take precautions as recommended by the CDC, and providing additional resources like handwashing guides, and information about how to talk to young people about the spread of COVID-19.

At this time, the Club will open on Monday, March 23rd from 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM for our K-12th members and college alumni in need of technological access to remote- learning material and projects, with the following additional safety precautions in place:

- *All children and Staff will wash their hands frequently. Cleaning supplies, tissue and hand soap will be readily available.*
- *Club areas will be cleaned and sanitized frequently throughout the day.*
- *In accordance with CDC recommendations, social distancing will be enacted for all attendees and staff.*

Please understand that even with reasonable precautions in place, we are unable to guarantee there will not be exposure to COVID-19. We advise that you make any decisions for your family with this in mind.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Queens is the only place that some of the families in our community can turn to when schools are closed. We are monitoring this diligently and will continue to operate as long as we are able to provide a safe environment for young people. As always, we place the safety of our youth and staff at the highest level. We will continue to update you as we know more.

The health and safety of BGCMQ staff, Club members, and volunteers is of the utmost importance. The CDC has developed the suggested strategies and actions below for preventing the spread of illness at the Club:

Before:

- We have met with Executive Staff planning team and discuss emergency protocol and develop a contingency plan that addresses various Coronavirus (COVID-19) scenarios.
- Anyone who has traveled to, or through, any CDC Level-3 country (China, Italy, Iran, South Korea), in the last 14 days, should not attend.
- Discourage anyone who is sick from attending and have anyone that begins to feel ill and/or display any Coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms leave immediately.
- Create a quarantine zone for anyone who may fall ill. Draft a plan for how vulnerable attendees will be separated and cared for if need be.
- Gather supplies such as soap, hand sanitizers, and tissues that will be distributed on-site.
- Work with local health officials and develop plan in case the situation changes and the service must be canceled or postponed.
- Identify automated platforms that can be used to quickly disseminate updates to staff members and attendees via text message, email and more.

During:

- Staff and all attendees to practice good personal health habits each day. Hand sanitizers will be available throughout the day. Surfaces and objects that are frequently touched should be wiped down and disinfected on a frequent basis.
- Signs will be posted throughout the building to remind attendees and staff of personal hygiene guidelines such as frequently washing hands, avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth, and sneeze or cough into your elbow.
- Share frequent updates with staff, students, and parents/guardians.
- We maintain a healthy stockpile of prevention supplies.
- Separate anyone who falls ill from the rest of the group. Place them in quarantine and work with parents/guardians and the local hospital and health department to provide appropriate care.

After:

- Hold daily meeting with staff to discuss issues and lessons learned. Also ask attendees and their families for feedback.
- Continue to monitor emergency preparedness resources and training for future events.