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2020-2021 Fact Sheet – COVID-19 Guidelines

Will you open for 2020-2021 school year?

Yes! After careful review and consideration of the Minimum Health and Safety guidelines issued by the Commonwealth, our team feels confident that we can provide a safe and meaningful childcare experience for our families this school year. We have been able to execute a successful camp season in both communities and will be using many lessons learned from the summer as we navigate through the school year.

When will the first day of programming be...and what exactly will the program look like?

This has been the question most on our minds as well! As the schools began to confirm their choices for learning options, we began to envision what our offerings could potentially look like. With an understanding that working families will potentially struggle with any level of remote learning option, we feel strongly that we will be able to offer a comprehensive program structure that will provide care to your child during the times in which they would not be in the classroom as part of the Hybrid model. We also feel confident that we will begin this offering on the first day of school for your child (whatever that first day may look like!).

How will you divide the students up to be able to keep everyone safe while also serving all the families that will need care?

To start, we consider ourselves extremely lucky to work with such great municipalities! We are working in conjunction with local officials and businesses to maximize the amount of space available in each community to run safe childcare experiences that encompass the educational and social needs of children.

Our current plan is to have Cohort A utilize one facility (per town) and Cohort B utilize a second facility (again, per town). This would allow each cohort to keep the same space for the days in which they will require full day care and the days in which only after school care will be needed. We are awaiting specifics on scheduling and enrollment to determine locations, but rest assured that all facilities that we are considering will have:

- Space for your child to complete schoolwork.
- Indoor and outdoor space for recreation and socialization.
- Areas for safe, no-contact pick up and drop off.

How does this program differ from your traditional after school program?

Our traditional program is considered a drop-in model (excluding Club Jr for K-1); members are encouraged to move freely throughout activities during their time at the Club. For this program, members will remain with a group within their Cohort throughout the course of the day (based on grade). This model will more closely resemble our summer camp programs.

What is your plan to help my child with remote learning during the full days?

We take the responsibility of aiding your child with their schoolwork as our main programmatic goal for this school year. Our cohorts will be by grade, which coincides with the current school schedules for remote learning (both synchronous and asynchronous). We are substantially boosting our internet capacity at each location to meet the necessary bandwidth and our program areas are being designed to give students the space needed to work comfortably and safely.

Will you be limiting the size of the program and number of members that can attend weekly?

Yes, we project to be operating at under 50% of normal capacity at each of our sites this school year. Though operationally challenging, we want to be available to families who depend on us for their childcare needs. Providing each Cohort with their own space will allow us to keep capacity a lower capacity per site and, in turn, serve as many children as is safely possible.

Is coverage right now only available for families choosing the Hybrid option?

Based on the results of our Needs Assessment and spatial capabilities, we will be offering programming to families that are electing for the Hybrid learning module. As things become more settled, we are actively exploring small group enrichment activity options for those in the Full Remote module; more information on those options will be provided at a later date.

Can you dive into the enhancements you have made regarding the safety of the campers and staff?

To start, the guidelines issued by the Commonwealth are strict and all-encompassing; the times we are living in call for that level of diligence and we plan to match them with our efforts. Some of our enhanced measures include:

- Sanitation, disinfection, and cleanliness
 - This one is so important; it gets its own question below!
- Cohort groups
 - Groups will be consistent by grade, led by the same Group Leaders.
 - Members will stay with the same group throughout the day and school year; we will not be mixing groups for activities.
- Program spaces
 - Our groups will be given their own program spaces, exclusively utilized by that group. They will be the only group to occupy those designated areas for the duration of the program, leading to less cross-contamination from other groups.
 - Group schedules will be staggered, leading to groups transitioning at different times throughout the day and reducing traffic of multiple groups passing through the same area simultaneously.
 - Groups will be given their own equipment and supplies to utilize during the program.
- Social distancing
 - We will be practicing keeping a safe distance throughout each day. When traveling, eating snack or meeting within our groups, members and staff will keep space between each other.
 - Our Leadership Team has worked tirelessly to design activities that are not only fun for groups but adhere to safe distancing standards.
- Hand hygiene

- We will be doing group hand washing with soap and water between each activity. Signage from the CDC is posted at each handwashing station to remind our members about best handwashing practices.
- Each Group Leader will have a bottle of hand sanitizer for group usage when a quick sanitizing is needed. Staff will monitor this use directly to make sure safe application for all.
- Wear cloth face coverings
 - Per guidance issued by the Commonwealth, we are asking all members and staff to wear face coverings when social distancing is not possible. Staff will be extra vigilant about member health and activities will be designed to not cause members or staff to overexert themselves.
 - Members should come prepared with a face covering on each day from home. Members will not be permitted to attend if they arrive without a face covering.
 - Members will be excused from mask wearing with physician's note indicating that the camper has a condition that could be impacted by facial covering.
- Daily health screenings at drop-off and bus pick up from schools
 - Today or in the past 24 hours, have you had any of the following symptoms?
 - Fever (temperature of 100.0F or above), felt feverish, or had chills?
 - New cough?
 - Sore throat?
 - Difficulty breathing?
 - Gastrointestinal symptoms (diarrhea, nausea, vomiting)?
 - New nasal congestion or new runny nose?
 - New loss of smell/taste?
 - New muscle aches?
 - Unidentified rash?
 - Any other signs of illness?
 - In the past 14 days, have you had close contact with a person known to be infected with the novel coronavirus (COVID-19)?

Who have you worked with to put these policies in place?

We are lucky to be able to work with two outstanding Boards of Health in Stoneham and Wakefield, not only as our licensing providers but as community partners. Our friends at Wakefield Pediatrics work as our health care consultants for summer camp and were able to give us excellent insight and suggestions ahead of the guidelines issued by the Commonwealth. We are currently working with each Board to finalize these plans and move into the school year in unison with each town's efforts to keep families safe.

In addition, the MA Department of Early Education and Care have put together many frameworks for their emergency child care operations that have proven to be staples of guidelines issued by the Commonwealth, giving us good lead time to put our plans in motion.

How do you plan to keep the facilities sanitized throughout the school year?

This is an area that we plan to devote whatever resources are necessary to ensure a clean, sanitary environment for our campers and staff. These enhanced measures include:

- Staff member on duty at each location whose sole responsibility is to sanitize and disinfect program spaces, equipment, bathrooms, and other high traffic areas throughout the day.

- Cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting entire facility each night after members have left for the day, so they return to a clean space the next morning.
- Our facilities will remain closed to the public; each space will be solely utilized throughout the school year for our cohorts.
- Only staff working in our programs will be on premises, with our non-program staff working remotely.

Will I need to provide any paperwork for my child(ren) to be able to attend?

Luckily, much of the information we need from you is captured during your registration. Once that is completed, we will just need:

- An up to date copy of your child(ren)'s immunization records.
- A signed participation waiver (which will be emailed by our Leadership Team).
- Any physician's orders for medication that your child(ren) will need us to administer during the camp day.

I have more questions. Who should I reach out to?

We're always here to help! Please feel free to input your questions into this friendly form: <https://forms.gle/UifEzWNkiqCH51dd6>. Once submitted, a member of our Leadership Team will get in touch with you ASAP.

We want to thank you for considering us as an option for your family during these uncertain times. Please know that your Boys & Girls Club plans to adapt to the ever-changing circumstances in our communities and be a steady presence for the needs of your family.

All the best,

Adam Rodgers
Chief Executive Officer

John Brinkman
Chief Operating Officer