



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF SKAGIT COUNTY

PO Box 947 • 1605 William Way, Suite B, Mount Vernon, WA 98273 • 360-419-3723 (phone/fax)

SkagitClubs.org

16 MAR 2020

Dear Club Family,

As an organization, our commitment to keeping our members and staff safe is always our top priority. To accomplish this, and ensure we have done our best to mitigate any risks to our Club members, and staff, we have had to adjust our original schedule for this week, and for reopening. Delivery delays of vital equipment and supplies necessary to reopening have occurred, and we now cannot tackle this until at least Monday, March 23rd. We anticipate it will take at least two days to fully disinfect a Club location and be open for services.

The Mount Vernon School District is working on providing childcare services at several locations throughout the community. We are working with all School Districts to determine where and when we may best support our region. Because of significantly increased costs of service, related to guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA), we are actively seeking the funds necessary to reopen and do whatever we can to subsidize and lessen any direct costs to families. Currently, without such support, these costs would be \$300 per week, per child.

By following recommended health practices, updated at least daily, we can all help make recovery occur more quickly.

Some reminders on best practices in preventive actions to mitigate the risk of exposure:

- 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 wipes or cleaners, and regularly use bleach-water solutions as a precautionary measure.
- Wash your hands with soap and water often for at least 20 seconds, especially after using the restroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.

On Thursday, March 19th, we are hoping that our temporary 'new normal' is better understood. I promise you that your amazing staff team has been working hard to keep our door open, uninterrupted. However, just as a plan is completed, guidance changes. The speed in which updates are occurring and changing is now every 4-6 hours during the day. All Club staff non-essential to a previously scheduled virtual event occurring on Wednesday, are being provided two days of additional paid leave to use Tuesday and Wednesday.

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We feel it is important our frontline staff has some respite, and an ability to solidify their own personal situations and plans, before digging back into operations and our response. This also allows the leadership team and Board to use the evolving information and guidance being provided to child care centers to craft the most responsible plan for the ongoing operations of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Skagit County. Until this is completed, program staff can not know what to plan for or expect.

Your family is so important to us. With sudden unexpected closures today in Mount Vernon, our staff at LaVenture and Mount Baker did not first get to say goodbye to their youth and teens prior to the extended break. Nick and Elizabeth and their teams send their best, and want to know how much they love our Club kids and families. We understand the obstacles and challenges set forth to you by this overwhelming event and the amount of information that comes with it. We want to be a part of your solution, but just need some time and ask for your patience.

In considering the reopening of our Clubs, please also know that we will be limited, at least initially, to only opening four locations, with 32 children at each location. We will be working through the next couple of days to identify the most equitable way to fill those positions. It is our understanding that priority spaces for First Responders and Healthcare workers will be at the Skagit County Children's Museum in Burlington. If you work in these vital areas, please contact them first for space.

In our Thursday communication, we will provide information as to the crediting of March fees paid toward future services, and the suspension of collection of fees via ACH and CC through monthly withdrawals until schools are able to reopen. Any full day programs are likely to have a similar fee structure as to our regular camps, and we will try to provide additional scholarship opportunities whenever possible.

It is anticipated these circumstances will last through the end of the school year and into the summer. While we work to meet the immediate need now, we keep an eye to the future as well, and the impact of operating long-term in this situation. Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. You have been so patient and considerate, and this is very much appreciated!

Yours in service,

Ron McHenry
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