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THE Y IN CENTRAL MARYLAND

## COVID-19 Coronavirus Frequently Asked Questions 3/19/20

### How has this crisis impacted Y Operations?

The following Y services and programs have been temporarily halted and will reopen when it is permitted and safe to do so:

- All 13 Y Family Centers
- All 34 Y Head Start sites
- All 50 Before & After School sites
- All 20 Y Community Schools
- All site-based and community-based mentoring programs
- All Y sports and recreation fields are closed

Five of our six Y Preschools remain open and are following enhanced health and safety requirements. Those that are open are: The Weinberg Y Preschool, the Towson Y Preschool, the Betty Sterner Catonsville Y Preschool, the UMBC Y Preschool and the Riverside Y Preschool.

Our Y Chipmunks Preschool in Westminster remains closed for the time being.

### What is the Y doing to help the community through this?

We are focusing our resources on those who need us most during this unprecedented time.

This includes:

- Opening our Y Family Centers to provide care for the children of first responders and health care providers (beginning 3/20/20).
- Working with the Baltimore City school system to deploy our youth development teams to serve food to the over 11,000 students in Y Community Schools (schools located in neighborhoods with high concentrations of poverty).
- Providing support services to our over 1,600 Y Head Start families, including:
  - providing regular contact through phone calls, FaceTime, and video chats
  - contacting every family in our caseload to refer them to resources for food, activities for children, guidance on delivering home instruction, etc.

A charitable, cause-driven organization working for community well-being.

The Y.™ For a better us.

- check-ins with parents whose children have health conditions and following up with families in need of medications or who have other health needs.
- Providing online resources for families to help them and their children stay active, healthy and safe during this crisis including story times for young children, enrichment activities for older children, exercise and healthy living virtual classes and tips and much more.
- Reaching out to senior members of the Y to ensure that they are okay and letting them know that the Y is there for them.

### **How has this situation affected your workforce?**

The temporary closure of our operations has forced us to furlough over 2,000 people. The longer this goes on, the more people we will have to furlough. These great people include the Y fitness and group exercise instructors, front desk greeters, Stay & Play associates, after school directors and many more whom our members and participants know and love. We are scrambling to pay them something for as long as possible, but we will run out of cash soon without the support of our community.

### **How can we help?**

- We need our members to maintain their memberships; we need our volunteers, donors and funders to help us stay vital so we continue our community building work during and after this crisis.
- Our leadership team is working around the clock to regroup and preserve the guts of our operation for the long term. Our intent is to bring back as many of our furloughed associates as possible, as soon as possible, but our ability to do that depends on our members', participants', funders' and donors' ability and willingness to continue to support us.

### **What will my membership dues support if you are not operating Y Family Centers?**

Membership dues being paid through this period will be recorded as a charitable contribution. Those members who make this choice will receive a letter acknowledging their contribution at year-end to be used for tax purposes.

The Y is a 501(c)3, not-for-profit organization, so it is entirely appropriate to financially support a community organization like ours during a time like this. Fees we receive at this time will help us to keep our organization afloat, to serve the community through feeding programs, child care for hospital workers and first responders, coordinating with local governments to supplement their efforts, reaching out to isolated seniors, keeping our preschools open to serve working families and trying to navigate this situation in a manner that ensures that there is

a Y when this is over. **It's not easy, but we're doing our best and we need your help.**

**How is it possible that an organization like the Y could be in this position? Aren't you part of a huge national organization?**

- The Y in Central Maryland is a completely independent, locally run and governed non-profit organization (we pay significant dues to the national Y organization for use of the brand name; they don't fund or direct us in any way).
- The Y is funded primarily through membership and program fees. As those disappear, the Y will be significantly imperiled.

**If I maintain my membership, will you continue to pay your associates and provide them with health benefits?**

We are doing our best to support our great people, including paying the furloughed non-exempt associates for an extra week and extending their benefits as long as we can. Our exempt-level associates haven't been furloughed yet and continue to provide a base level of support to the organization and community. The uncertainty surrounding the length of this situation and member cancellations put us in a very challenging position. The more members who stick with us, the more we can do for our people and community. The less that stick with us, the less we can do. It's that simple and that tricky.

**What else are you doing to help families who are stuck at home?**

We are sharing online resources for staying healthy and active at home, including virtual group exercise classes, resources and activities for kids and families, and live-streamed classes from your local Y fitness professionals and more. Please look for those on your local Y's Facebook page, in our enews "Y Community News" and on our website [www.ymaryland.org](http://www.ymaryland.org). Here are a few links to access exercise online. More are on our Y Family Center Facebook pages and are being continuously updated.

[Y 360](#)

[Les Mills at the Y](#)

**How will people be kept informed?**

We are providing updates and online resources to help keep families and individuals active, healthy and safe during this period. Updates are also regularly provided on our website ([www.ymaryland.org](http://www.ymaryland.org)), via email, Facebook, Y emails and text alerts for those who have signed up for them.

**How will the Y respond if you have a report of a member/guest/student/program participant who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, or who has come into contact with someone who has?**

For any report of possible COVID-19 exposure, we will follow CDC guidance in consultation with our local and state health departments. Our response will be guided by a commitment to the health and safety of all involved and may include deep cleaning, a temporary suspension of operations, or other actions as determined by the specific circumstances of the exposure.

Thank you. Stay Healthy and Safe.