

Boys & Girls Clubs Big Brothers Big Sisters of Edmonton & Area

Dear Boys and Girls clubs Big Brothers Big Sisters Families,

We are writing to you today March 17, 2020 to update you regarding the steps that our agency is taking to support the community and our members in this time of what has been declared the COVID-19 Pandemic. We know that members of the BGCBigs community, which includes our children, youth, families, volunteers, and staff, are concerned about the spread of the virus and keeping families healthy and risk of exposure to the virus low.

We have all been notified that due to the concerns raised by Alberta Health Service in regards to the COVID-19 Pandemic, has resulted in EPSB and ECSD closing, to reduce contact among Children and stop the spread of the flu.

As a result of these closures, BGCBigs will align their practice with the recommendations set out by our local school boards, and our club and OST programs will be closed. It is our intent to continue to provide support to families where possible, within the guidelines of Alberta Health Services recommendations and we will continue notify you of these options as they are available, we have not set a date to reopen as we will be working with the recommendations provided by AHS, School Boards and Government officials, and will notify you of those changes as they occur.

We know this is a hard time for our community and our hearts and thoughts go out to those that are ill, because the flu is easily spread from person to person, it is not safe for large groups of people to gather. During this time both children and adults should stay away from other people in groups as much as possible.

Alberta Health services recommends that if you or any member of your family have symptoms such as fever and cough, and difficulty breathing and have travelled outside of Canada or have been exposed to someone who has COVID-19, stay home and call Health Link 811. More information about the virus, its symptoms and prevention recommendations can be found at <u>www.ahs.ca/covid</u>.

BGCBigs, continues to assess this ever-evolving situation and is taking internal measures to ensure that staff are informed and supported to prevent the spread and exposure to COVID-19. You are not alone, it is our intention to continue to explore ways of providing support, please connect with your individual Club Coordinators if you have any questions or are seeking guidance.

We will continue to provide regular updates to all BGCBigs families through our website at <u>www.bgcbigs.ca</u>, and through our coordinators. Thank you for your support as we work together to ensure that all children, youth, staff and volunteers remain safe.

Africa Centre-780-455-5423, Duggan Club-780-822-2565, Kinsmen Club-780-822-2560, McCauley Club-780-822-2549, Rundle Club-780-822-2562, Sakaw Club- 780-822-2564, Steinhauer Club-780-822-2563, Tweddle Club-780-822-2561, West Club- 780-822-2556.

Delton OST-780-863-4898, Eastglen OST-780-884-2445, John A McDougall OST-780-862-9497, Spruce Avenue OST-780-224-8961, St. Alphonsus-780-937-1004.

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