



Boys & Girls Clubs



Big Brothers Big Sisters

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

Dear Boys and Girls Clubs Big Brothers Big Sisters Volunteers,

We are writing 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 BGCBig 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.

With that, many of our school and corporate partners have provided us direction around their efforts to control the spread of the virus, which includes barring all non-essential persons from entering their buildings. As a result of this, **all mentoring activities** will be **put on hold** for the remainder of the month. This will come into effect as of Monday, March 16th and we will continue to update you as to the future of our programming as the next few weeks pass. Note that Spring break takes place for Edmonton Public Schools and Edmonton Catholic Schools from March 23rd – 27th.

As of today, Friday March 13, 2020 no suspected cases of COVID-19 have been identified in any BGCBig clubs, schools or OST spaces. While the risk of exposure in Alberta is still assessed as low, Alberta Health Services do anticipate the risk may increase in the coming weeks, as this is a busy time for families and travel through spring break. COVID-19 is believed to be spread mainly by coughing, sneezing or direct contact with someone who is sick with COVID-19 or with surfaces they have recently touched. 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 www.ahs.ca/covid.

With Spring break just around the corner and many families making travel decisions, we are encouraging you to visit www.alberta.ca/COVID19 for guidance around prevention, testing and other useful information.

We will continue to provide regular updates to all BGCBig volunteers. Thank you for your support as we work together to ensure that all children, youth, staff and volunteers remain safe.

Liz O'Neill
Executive Director

Sandra Prefontaine
Community Initiatives Lead
780-937-1005

Tannis Pearson
Mentoring Manager
780-822-2521