



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

03.24.2020

## **A Message to Members/Patrons**

At the Waldo County YMCA, the health and safety of everyone is always our top priority. Health experts tell us that the next few weeks are critical and they have strongly urged all Americans, including businesses such as ours, to take drastic steps now to stop the community spread of COVID-19. To that end, we have made the determination that it is prudent for us to remain closed through April 12 to help keep our members and community safe. We are doing our part to help “flatten the curve” of the spread of the virus so that our hospitals and healthcare systems do not become overwhelmed.

Our Y has made the strong commitment to retain and pay our staff during this period. We have staff working remotely and diligently on our upcoming programs so we will be ready to go when we reopen. We are also bringing the Y to you during this time when you can't physically come to us! Please visit our Facebook page for live classes with our fitness instructors as well as tips on how to continue your fitness journey. Y preschool teachers are reaching out daily to our students and families with opportunities for productive continued learning. Our custodial and aquatics staff are using this time to clean, disinfect and paint throughout our facility.

Many of you have sent us heartfelt, thoughtful and encouraging messages of hope. Thank you! The best way for you to show your support for our YMCA is to carry on paying your membership dues if you are able. We also are offering the option to temporarily put your membership on hold if you find that necessary. If you wish to do this please reach out directly by sending an email to [bosgood@waldocountyyymca.org](mailto:bosgood@waldocountyyymca.org) or call 338-4598 and leave a message. (We are periodically checking voicemail.) Our Y has always been there to support our community and we like all of you are trying to weather this financial and health crisis. As our facility reopens, we will be here like we always have been with financial assistance to support our neighbors in need.

We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this situation may have caused you. We want to thank all of our loyal members for their patience and understanding. We remain committed to supporting and strengthening our community especially in times like these. We believe strongly that being closed is socially responsible and we do not take this action lightly.

Our Y leadership team remains in contact with state, regional and local agencies while we monitor this unprecedented and rapidly changing situation. We will continue to communicate any updates with our members in a timely and transparent manner. In the coming days, in conjunction with prevailing recommendations from federal, state and local officials, we will keep you updated on our status via our website and Facebook pages.

Stay safe and we hope to see all of you soon.  
Bob Oickle, Interim CEO

### **WALDO COUNTY YMCA**

157 Lincolnville Avenue · Belfast, Maine 04915  
207.338.4598 [WWW.WALDOCOUNTYYMCA.ORG](http://WWW.WALDOCOUNTYYMCA.ORG)  
A 501(c)(3) Charitable Organization.



03.18.2020

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## **A Message to Members/Patrons**

Our world is changing by the week, the hour and quite literally the minute. The health and safety of our all is our greatest concern. Our broader community has collectively reacted as best it can with the challenge in an effort to “flatten the curve” of COVID-19.

It's important during times like these to keep in mind that we are stronger when we work together. When this crisis passes, we look forward to continuing to serve you in furthering our cause of strengthening our community together.

Please consider maintaining your membership during this time, as the Waldo County YMCA is a local non-profit charitable organization that relies on membership dues and programming fees to maintain our facilities and continue to pay our staff. Our staff are the backbone of the Y and only with them will we be able to continue to provide life changing services when this crisis ends. We are currently working diligently to clean our facilities, top to bottom and to remain available to answer your questions. There will still be staff in the facility to answer phone calls and emails on a limited basis.

During this time, our staff is continuing to focus on both spring and summer program opportunities for our community. We plan to reopen March 30, 2020, pending information from our governor, the CDC and local health officials. We hope that you find it in your heart to continue to support us through your uninterrupted membership dues.

The decisions we make today are based on the shared effort to protect and help all our citizens, but especially the most vulnerable among us. The Waldo County YMCA has been at the hub of our community for more than 40 years and has met many challenges with the respect to the growing needs of our society. Rest assured that we will be there in the future, stepping up and acting consistently with our legacy.

Please take care, stay safe and positive.  
Bob Oickle, Interim CEO

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March 15, 2020

At the Waldo County YMCA, we have been closely monitoring the rapidly changing situation with the Coronavirus. In light of recent guidance provided by local and state officials regarding “social gathering places”, the Waldo County YMCA has made the difficult decision to close our facility for two weeks, beginning Monday, March 16 through Sunday, March 29. We plan to reopen on Monday, March 30 however we will continue to monitor the situation and reevaluate our plans as necessary.

As the coronavirus (COVID-19) begins to have an increased impact on our communities the scientific and medical communities are recommending early and aggressive steps to prevent the spread. Updates are coming at quick pace, so it is key that our response remains fluid. Since Governor Mills announced the first presumed positive case of coronavirus in Maine she has recommended that schools and organizations make attempts to limit non-essential indoor gatherings that expose individuals to large groups. As always up-to-date information can be found on the CDC site.

The simplest thing we can all do as a community is to follow the CDC recommendations for everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases, including:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Follow CDC’s recommendations for using a facemask.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

We are taking this opportunity to do a complete cleaning of our YMCA. We are giving additional attention to cleaning of door handles, all equipment, and surfaces.

As always, the health and safety of our members is our top priority. We ask you to be patient as we navigate through this rapidly changing situation. We will continue to evaluate the situation as it evolves, and this timeline could change at any point. Please be assured that we are closely following developments and will respond quickly as circumstances change. We will continue to communicate via phone, email, and you can also check our website and Facebook page for up-to-date information.

Thank you for your patience. Stay well.  
Bob Oickle, Interim CEO

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