



Harry & Rose Samson Family  
Jewish Community Center

## JCC Update: Building Closure

March 14, 2020

JCC Families,

When times are challenging, it's a good reminder to look back at the teachers and values that guide us. Pirkei Avot reminds us - "Who is wise? One who learns from every person."

We are learning - from industry experts, professionals, and officials - that the best course of action for us is the hardest: closing the physical buildings of the JCC and joining the movement of leaders responding to the community spread of COVID-19 (coronavirus.) Though there have not been any confirmed cases of coronavirus in JCC service areas, we are announcing that **all JCC buildings will close to members and guests at the end of business**

**Saturday, March 14th.** We anticipate our facilities will remain closed through Thursday, April 16th, scheduled to reopen on Friday, April 17th.

To ensure that our members and families have everything they need to focus on their own health, we will provide **limited, supervised access to classrooms and locker rooms on Sunday, March 15th from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm** - allowing members to quickly pick up any necessary personal items from lockers, classrooms, and cubbies. Entrance during this time will be limited to the north (Peck) entrance, both south entrances into Gan Ami Whitefish Bay, and Gan Ami Mequon.

The Board of Directors and leadership team of the JCC do not take this decision lightly; it is hard to balance this choice with our desire to bring the community together in the greatest moments of need. The unique circumstances of this pandemic, and our specific opportunity to limit any additional spread or further community impact, demand us to do the very opposite - to build more space between our members, programs, and facilities. The strongest service to our members and mission - to the values of *Tikkun Olam* (because the world needs repairing right now) and *Kol Yisrael Arevim Zeh Ba'Zeh* (because we are all responsible for one another) - is to close our doors.

Perhaps as we close one door, we open a window. **Jewish community has never required a building to thrive, and tomorrow will be no different.** We're actively exploring how we can fill new spaces, online and beyond, to bring our community together in new, healthy, and meaningful ways. Our talented team of JCC professionals will work throughout this physical closure, and continue to tirelessly pursue ways to serve our members and guests. Please follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and at **[jccmilwaukee.org](http://jccmilwaukee.org)** for updates and new efforts.

Knowing that the next steps are critical to both our members and our mission, we are actively reviewing how the closure of our buildings affects program related fees, enrollment expenses, and membership dues. We promise to share an update on those topics as soon as a responsible and clear decision has been made. We are hopeful that our members will continue to support the JCC in any way possible during this period of time; in this way, we can ensure that the JCC

remains prepared to meet the needs of those most challenged and serve the entire community for years to come.

For as hard as this decision has been, it has come with many blessings. To be members of this community - where we go far beyond just supporting one another and instead commit to lifting one another up - is the reason we do what we do. We know that, in due time, our doors will open and our hands will reach out in welcome.

B'Shalom,



Joe Kasle  
Chair, JCC Board of Directors



Mark Shapiro  
President & Chief Executive Officer

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