

1000 3rd Ave NE P.O. Box 833 Watertown, SD 57201-0833 (605) 886-6666 www.bgcofwatertown.com

Serving the Youth of Watertown Area Since 1973

To: Watertown Community Members
From: Liz Christianson, Executive Director

christiansonl@bgcofwatertown.com

Date: 5/6/20

Re: Boys & Girls Club Pandemic Response to Operational Recovery

With City officials lifting restrictions in Watertown, we have hope in getting back to a "new" normal. Before we can do that however, the Boys & Girls Club of Watertown wants to ensure that we have all the appropriate safety measures and operational phases in place. We are working to be as flexible and responsive as possible to the community needs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

On Monday, May 11, our first phase of service will provide childcare for healthcare and emergency workers only.

- Hours of operation will be Monday Friday, 5:45 am 6:00 pm.
- This service is provided to youth currently in Kindergarten 6th grade.
- Health screenings of youth and staff will occur prior to entering the facility, with additional temperature checks throughout the day.
- Youth will be placed in groups of 8, with 2 staff members leading a structured daily program plan.
- Sanitation procedures will be heightened throughout the facility.

On Tuesday, May 26, the Club will offer a Summer Food Service program to all community youth ages 0 to 18 years old.

- This free daily meal service will provide a lunch and breakfast (for the next day).
- Served from 11:00 am 1:00 pm, Monday Friday, in a no-contact, drive through method at the Boys & Girls Club Main Site.
- Pre-registration for meals is appreciated and will be available online starting May 18 at bgcofwatertown.com

We will re-evaluate the conditions weekly to determine the best course of action for phase two opening operations. At this point, we speculate the plans for phase two will be to open the Main Club site in early summer with a limited scope, following group gathering and social distancing guidelines. This will include a reduction of the usual numbers of youth served in the facility at one time.

Our staff and Board Members are working diligently to create and implement new safety standards, policies and procedures based on health guidelines provided by the CDC, South Dakota Department of Public Health, and local health officials. Then, when we do re-open the blue doors, Club members and parents, staff and volunteers will have the peace of mind knowing that they are safe and protected.

Additional updates will be shared via facebook, on the Club website and through miscellaneous media outlets as soon as more information is available.

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