

# HEALTH AND SAFETY AT THE JCC

LATEST UPDATE

May 28, 2020

Dear JCC Members,  
The JCC of Greater Columbus is excited to welcome you back with the reopening of the Diamond Family Fitness Center and select recreational areas beginning on June 7, 2020. Our enthusiasm is tempered, though, with the knowledge that it's not business as usual. As long as COVID-19 remains a threat in our environment, we must all adapt to our current reality. The JCC is always inspired by the wisdom of our Jewish values, but the following have especially guided our decision-making process during this time:

- Pikuzah Nefesh** – Above all else, 'saving a life' is our highest obligation. When we open our doors, we will take whatever precautions are necessary to keep our members and the staff who serve them safe and healthy.
- She'at Hadehak** – Extraordinary moments call for extraordinary measures. This is an unprecedented time for everyone in the world. We must be aware of our current reality and the ever-changing situation, being prepared to shift our course at any given moment.
- Kehillah Kedosha** – 'Holy community.' We recognize G-d's presence in our human interactions and we are committed to upholding our sacred J community, whether in person or online. We need every person who visits the JCC to truly live these values. Protecting the well-being of our members and staff requires many new procedures that everyone will need to follow – and we recognize that this may be inconvenient until we all get accustomed to our new normal. While this communication is lengthy, it contains important information that will help make your visit easier and support our collective responsibility to comply with CDC, state and local guidelines and, most importantly, protect the health and safety of everyone.

**During Phase 1, beginning June 7<sup>th</sup>,** the following areas/programs will be available to members. No guests or visitors will be allowed. Each of these areas will have different hours, procedures and requirements to enable social distancing and sanitation.

Diamond Family Fitness Center (Cardio & Weight Equipment) by MINDBODY Reservation

Indoor Walking Track

Indoor Pool for Lap Swimming Only by MINDBODY Reservation

Tennis Courts by MINDBODY Reservation

**The outdoor pool is tentatively scheduled to open on June 15, 2020.**

Regardless of which recreational facility you plan to use, the JCC has implemented new protective equipment and sanitation policies for members and staff and a consistent process for reservations, arrival and check-in that will need to be completed by all members prior to accessing any of the aforementioned areas.

**A video tutorial of these procedure, area/program fact sheets, additional cleaning protocols, and last-minute updates will be emailed and posted to our Facebook Page and website on June 3, 2020.**

**Reservations and Arrival Health Screenings**

Due to capacity restrictions, members will be required to reserve a time slot on our MINDBODY App or [webpage](#) before coming to the JCC. To get the app, download for [Android devices here](#) or [Apple devices here](#) – or visit [columbusjcc.org/fitness](#) to use the webpage scheduler.

To minimize lines, plan to arrive no earlier than 10 minutes prior to your scheduled time slot.

Prior to entering the building or accessing any outside recreational areas, members will be required to have their temperature taken and answer a short health screening at the main entrance.

Members whose temperature is below 100 degrees and meet the criteria for safe entry will be allowed to enter the building, scan their membership card and go to their reserved area. Members are only permitted to access or use the area/equipment that they reserved.

**Face Coverings and Equipment Sanitation** Masks will be required while waiting in line to enter, in all common areas, when walking between machines in the fitness area and when exiting the facility. Masks are not required during exercise. However, we will be offering Mask Mandatory time slots as well as Senior Adult/Vulnerable Population Only time slots. These slots will be indicated on MINDBODY reservation app.

Members must remain 6 feet from others at all times, follow all other safety protocols posted and wash hands frequently and/or utilize the many hand sanitizer stations around the building.

**JCC Staff & Facility Requirements**

JCC Staff will be wearing masks at all times

JCC Staff will have their temperature checked prior to their shift and complete a medical screening before being cleared for work each day

Extra cleanings will occur between scheduled time slots

Recreational areas will be cleaned thoroughly between reservations and after close each evening

*At this time, the following areas and programs remain closed due to social distancing limitations:*

Health Clubs (Upgraded Locker Rooms)

Gymnasiums

Racquet Ball Courts

In person Group Exercise

Towel Service (Bring your own towel if you need one)

Babysitting

Congregate Meal Site and senior transportation

Group programs and facility rentals

These protocols and procedures are in place to protect everyone. We appreciate your cooperation and adherence to these new guidelines. While the JCC is taking precautions as guided by health officials, community spread of COVID-19 is ongoing, and asymptomatic transmission is known to occur. Individuals should remain informed and take actions to support both their own and the community's safety and well-being.

In order to answer your program-specific questions about these procedures, please use the following contact resources:

**Fitnes**  
Carlie Snyder [csnyder@columbusjcc.org](mailto:csnyder@columbusjcc.org)

**Aquatics and Recreation**

Jeanna Brownlee [jeannabrownlee@columbusjcc.org](mailto:jeannabrownlee@columbusjcc.org)

**Membership and MINDBODY Access**

Evi Goldberg [egoldberg@columbusjcc.org](mailto:egoldberg@columbusjcc.org)

**General Questions**

Mike Klapper [mklapper@columbusjcc.org](mailto:mklapper@columbusjcc.org)

Ronnie Conn [rconn@columbusjcc.org](mailto:rconn@columbusjcc.org)

Melanie Butter [mbutter@columbusjcc.org](mailto:mbutter@columbusjcc.org)

Anna Shabtay [ashabtay@columbusjcc.org](mailto:ashabtay@columbusjcc.org)

We look forward to welcoming you back to the JCC, and hope to see you soon!

## Rick Meizlish, JCC Board President and Mike Klapper, JCC CEO

### May 14th, 2020

Dear JCC Members,

The time to welcome you back into the JCC is coming soon – and we could not be more excited to have our family together, in person, once again! Following Governor DeWine's announcement today that day cares centers, camps, health clubs, and pools can resume operations in late May, we are thrilled to announce the phased reopening of the JCC over the next month.

The Governor's decision to allow these businesses to reopen comes with acknowledgment that the COVID-19 threat remains for all of us, especially, our most vulnerable populations. Protecting the health and safety of our members and staff is our number one priority – and that will require many changes in how we arrive, interact with each other, and depart from the JCC.

To protect the health and safety of our members, staff and community, the JCC is committed to strict compliance with Ohio and CDC guidelines for social distancing, occupancy restrictions, and operating procedures. Our team is eager to welcome you and has been working on procedures and plans that protect us all. We will be spending the coming days and weeks ensuring we have the appropriate equipment, finalizing the procedures, and communicating them effectively to meet Ohio's newly published requirements. More information on specific requirements for each area will be sent to members and program registrants prior to reopening.

Below you will find some preliminary information about our phased reopening:

**Phase 1:** Per Governor DeWine's orders, day care centers and day camps are permitted to open May 31st. Early Childhood Services will resume operations in early June and families will be receiving additional information about these procedures. Additionally, our 2020 Summer Experience children's programs will continue plans towards in-person phased opening in June.

**Phase 2:** Workout facilities and pools in Ohio are permitted to open May 26th. The JCC is still awaiting official guidelines from the Governor which will inform decisions regarding the timeline for the safe reopening of our fitness center and pools.

**Phase 3:** Cultural arts (including JCC Gallery Players and special events), senior lunches, and group educational programs are not yet approved to resume in Ohio at this time. JCC staff will continue to monitor guidelines regarding the safety of convening groups of community for these important programs.

We appreciate the patience of our members as we continue to navigate this unprecedented situation. It has been quite a journey for all of us – and we have felt blessed along the way to be supported by the understanding and generous spirit of those we serve.

Of course, the journey is not over. Protecting the health of everyone will require many changes. We will learn and adapt together in the coming weeks and months.

On behalf of the JCC Staff and Board of Trustees, we look forward to welcoming you home!

Rick Meizlish, JCC Board President and Mike Klapper, JCC CEO

### April 7th, 2020

Dear JCC Members,

On behalf of the entire JCC family, we hope you are staying well. We miss seeing you immensely, but are inspired by the positive response to our Virtual J programming. Be sure to visit [columbusjcc.org/VirtualJ](#) if you haven't already and stay in touch on our Facebook page at [facebook.com/columbusjcc](#).

We want to express our sincere appreciation for those who have been able to contribute to the J Sustainability Fund through maintaining your dues payments, contributing additional dollars, or maintaining your annual renewal date. We recognize these are challenging and uncertain times for everyone. We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of our members and the kindness that you have all shared through emails, phone messages, or comments on our social media.

We are pleased to share with you that the Board of Trustees has approved our executive team's recommendation to continue paying our JCC staff members who work 20+ hours/week at full salary through the end of the current Stay at Home order on May 1, 2020.

While we hope to be able to open the JCC on May 1st, the pandemic situation is fluid and Stay at Home orders may be extended. Rest assured the executive team continues to work tirelessly on contingency plans that would allow us to continue supporting our staff through June, if needed.

This week, we will be debuting lots of content for Passover, additional fitness classes, and more. The JCC is also helping support those on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic by serving as a blood drive location, by appointment only, on Wednesday, April 8th.

Our Passover holiday begins at sundown on Wednesday, April 8th. Our Virtual JCC will be offline beginning at 5:00 pm on April 8th and we will be back to live virtual programming on Sunday, April 12th. During this time, if you would like to view past workout videos and other content, you may do so at [columbusjcc.org/virtualj](#).

Rick Meizlish, JCC Board President and Mike Klapper, JCC CEO

### March 26th, 2020

Dear JCC Members,

We hope you and your family are staying healthy and well. We miss seeing you every day.

As you know, we have closed our doors to do our part to slow the spread of COVID-19. It has been difficult on us all, and we are doing everything we can to help keep our community connected during this unprecedented time – while also working diligently to address what we know are even greater challenges in the days and weeks ahead.

The Columbus JCC is more than just a physical campus in our community – and while our doors are temporarily closed, what we have opened is a virtual J to help us all stay connected...with programming, workouts, events and enjoyment for members of all ages. Our staff has worked swiftly and creatively to create new paths for connection and we are so thrilled with the response and engagement we've seen so far. Please visit [columbusjcc.org/virtualj](#) as well as our Facebook page [facebook.com/columbusjcc](#) to connect with us and each other, share ideas, and get in a workout. We hope to continue to surprise and delight you with this content – and we hope you will share with your friends, family and neighbors!

This week, the JCC Board of Directors, on our very first meeting via Zoom, met to discuss and address our temporary policies as it relates to our staff, and your membership:

#### Staff Impact

The closures forced by COVID-19 are affecting everyone. As a non-profit agency, we are keenly aware of the impact this closing may have on our staff – the heart and soul of how and why we are able to be your community JCC. We are committed to supporting our employees as best as we can, while also ensuring the continued sustainability of the JCC. Our leadership – Executive Staff and the full Board of Directors are evaluating all sources of revenue and options for reducing expenses, but it should come as no surprise that our greatest expense is also our greatest asset – our incredible staff.

Effective immediately, we have established the **J Sustainability Fund** to prioritize the emergency need to support our staff and the long-term sustainability of the J.

#### Your Membership

Starting April 1st, we hope you will maintain your membership/health club payments with us. Your support in this way will help the JCC survive this crisis and allow us to continue to maintain some level of compensation to our employees. We want them to continue to provide the virtual programming and engagement that we are all craving right now... and we want them to be here when we are ready to re-open our physical spaces!

These payments will go directly into the **J Sustainability Fund** as a tax-deductible contribution. If you are an annual member, your renewal date will remain the same.

If it is not feasible for you to continue paying the full monthly membership amount, we understand that too. On this [form](#), you may also designate another percentage (i.e. 75%, 50%) to help us build this fund. Again, your contributions during this time are tax-deductible.

Lastly, there are additional options listed on the form should you need to consider another choice as it relates to the status of your membership. Please feel free to reach out to [Anna Shabtay](mailto:Anna.Shabtay@columbusjcc.org) at [ashabtay@columbusjcc.org](mailto:ashabtay@columbusjcc.org) with any questions or to discuss your individual situation.

Please use the form below to indicate your choice by Sunday, March 29th to allow any changes to take effect by April 1st. If we do not hear from you, we will proceed with Option 1 – with your payments going directly to the J Sustainability Fund (and an extremely grateful thank you). [Here you will find the complete fee policy passed by our Board of Directors.](#)

[Click Here for Membership Form](#)

#### Our Community

We are enormously grateful for the generosity and donor support from our members – not only right now, but for the over 100 years that our JCC has been here for the Columbus community. We are here because of the investment our community makes in us. And it's an investment that we will never take for granted.

We can't wait to welcome you back in our doors again!

Thank you for your consideration,

Rick Meizlish, JCC Board President and Mike Klapper, JCC CEO

### March 15th, 2020

Dear JCC Members,

On Friday, we announced that the JCC Diamond Family Fitness Center facilities will remain open at this time, with additional cleaning and safety measures implemented. However, in a press conference on Saturday, Governor Mike DeWine and Dr. Amy Acton shared new information regarding the accelerated spread of COVID-19 in Ohio. We have been closely monitoring their 2pm daily updates. Given the likelihood that the virus can be passed to others by individuals exhibiting few or no symptoms, they reinforced the importance of social distancing measures and the responsibility of every citizen to take measures to protect themselves and others.

**As of 5:00PM Sunday, March 15, the JCC of Greater Columbus will be closed. Our current plan is to reopen on Sunday, April 5.**

Resuming operations will be evaluated at that time as developments unfold. In keeping with the practices of other organizations in our community and the recommendations of public health officials, we are taking this action to increase social distancing in order to slow the rate of transmission of Coronavirus in our community.

We realize that you will have questions regarding membership and program fees and we will be prepared to respond to those questions in the coming days.

During the time when program operations are suspended, many departments will continue to be engaged in support operations, online community opportunities, and developing plans for the future.

As information is changing daily, we will update [www.columbusjcc.org/healthandsafety](#) and our Facebook page at [facebook.com/columbusjcc](#) with any new information.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during these unprecedented times.

### March 15th, 2020

Dear JCC Members,

On Friday, we announced JCC Early Childhood Services will be closed for three weeks beginning Tuesday, March 17, proactively adhering to the same guidelines Governor Mike DeWine announced last week for grades K-12.

In a press conference on Saturday, health officials shared critical information regarding the accelerated spread of COVID-19 in Ohio, including a case in Franklin county, and they reinforced the importance of adhering to social distancing measures to slow the spread. **In response to heightened urgency and to be consistent with schools in the area, we are amending our Early Childhood Services closure date to begin Monday, March 16.**

We apologize for the late notice, but we are responding to the latest guidance provided by public health officials to keep our community safe.

Limited Early Childhood staff will be at each site on Monday from 7:00AM-1:00PM should you need to pick up any of your child's belongings that might be needed while the JCC ECS sites are closed.

As promised, we will keep you updated on any further developments.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Mike Klapper, CEO  
Rick Meizlish, Board President  
Nikki Henry, Children's Program Director

### March 13th, 2020

Dear JCC Members,

The leadership of the JCC of Greater Columbus has been working closely with city, state and community officials as well as the CDC to ensure we are doing everything possible to protect our members' and staff health and fulfill our responsibilities to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Last night, our JCC Executive Board met to discuss the COVID-19 declaration from Governor DeWine regarding the temporary suspension of K – 12 schools and the restrictions placed on large gatherings. After much thoughtful deliberation, the JCC leadership made the difficult decision to close our Early Childhood Services for a three-week period starting close of business on Monday, March 16.

Additionally, the JCC Board of Directors has decided to temporarily suspend all group related programs and activities effective at 6pm today, March 13:

- Youth and adult sports classes, clinics and leagues
- Group and individual swim lessons
- JClub afterschool program, schools' out days, and spring break camp
- All Senior Adult programs
- Babysitting and JZone
- Free and paid group exercise classes
- Water fitness classes
- All cultural arts programs (Gallery Players, Author Series, Film Festival events)
- All rentals and large communal events
- Birthday parties
- Membership tours
- Outdoor playgrounds

The Diamond Family Fitness Center and pool (for adult lap swimming only) will remain open with procedures in place to limit the number of members by temporarily restricting use of machinery to ensure adequate distance. No minors under the age of 13 are allowed into the facility and minors between 13 and 18 must be accompanied and supervised by an adult while at the JCC. The JCC will continue to implement our thorough cleaning standards and ensure that hand sanitizer and cleaning wipes are readily available.

It is without a doubt that these decisions will create hardships for our members. After a long discussion, the Board of Directors determined that we needed to support the directive by health officials to "flatten the curve" and slow down the spread of the Coronavirus through 'social distancing'.

As these are unprecedented times, we will need to make additional announcements about all of the issues surrounding these decisions. We will update [www.columbusjcc.org/healthandsafety](#) and our Facebook page at [facebook.com/columbusjcc](#) with any new information and the availability of online programs.

We are at a point in time that none of us could have imagined even a month ago. In the Talmud, we are taught *Kol Yisrael arevim zeh b'zehu* – we are responsible for each other. Protecting the health and safety of those who visit our facilities and fulfilling our responsibility to slow the spread of COVID-19 is of the utmost importance. If you are not feeling well, do not come to the facility. Please do not congregate in large crowds.

We thank you for your continued patience and support.

Rick Meizlish, JCC Board President and Mike Klapper, JCC CEO

#### RESOURCES:

- Franklin County Public Health
- Ohio Department of Health
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 Overview – Centers for Disease Control
- World Health Organization COVID-19 Advice For The Public – World Health Organization
- Travel Tips: Coronavirus – U.S. Department of State's Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC)

### March 12th, 2020

#### IMPORTANT INFO REGARDING GALLERY PLAYERS

Gallery Players of the Jewish Community Center of Greater Columbus considers the health and well-being of our patrons, artists, staff and volunteers our highest priority. We are continuing to monitor and evaluate the development of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

**In accordance with Governor DeWine's directive to not allow large gatherings, at this time, Gallery Players will be temporarily suspending performances, events, and rehearsals until further notice.**

Ticket holders for the current production of *She Loves Me* may move tickets to a future show, retain a credit for future shows, or receive a full refund. Please email Gallery Players Artistic Director Giselle Siegel at [gsiegel@columbusjcc.org](mailto:gsiegel@columbusjcc.org) if you choose to pursue one of these options.

An additional option is the donation of your ticket to our theater program. Ticket sales allow our community theater to continue the mission of producing theater of the highest artistic expression, reflecting a Jewish perspective while exploring our common humanity. All artists involved in the current production will be compensated for their time and talent. Our artists rely on us, and we rely on them.

We will continue to monitor the ever-changing situation and send an update on our future productions: Jewish Theater Lab and Amadeus later this month.

We apologize for any inconvenience, and we greatly appreciate your continued support of Jewish theater in Columbus. Stay healthy and we hope to see you at a future performance soon.

Best,  
  
Giselle Siegel  
Gallery Players, Artistic Director

### March 11th, 2020

Dear JCC Members,

The JCC of Greater Columbus is committed to the safety, health and well-being of our staff, members, and participants. We are always vigilant with our protocol and the measures that we take to minimize the transmission of infectious disease here at the JCC and ensure the ongoing health of the members of our community. As the world monitors the news about the spread of the new Coronavirus (COVID-19), I want to assure you that the Board of Directors and the senior leadership team at the JCC is keeping up to date on the situation, listening to recommendations coming from appropriate authorities, and taking proactive steps to minimize disease transmission.

We have been in contact with and have reviewed recommendations from the Ohio Department of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Columbus Public Health Department. Last Friday, our senior leadership team participated in a call with the CDC specifically for JCC's to discuss this global concern.

**The following are the specific steps that we are taking in our ongoing effort to prevent the spread of illness:**

– Our cleaning personnel will continue to use a high-level antiviral cleaning agent to properly disinfect the entire facility on a daily basis.

– We have reviewed our daily cleaning and sanitation protocol for all program areas and have modified and enhanced daily procedures where necessary and appropriate, and we have taken steps to ensure that we will have the necessary supplies to do this.

– Our staff are being reminded and retrained on procedures for sanitizing toys in the ECS classrooms, toys in the babysitting room, equipment in the fitness center, as well as high use surfaces and equipment/supplies throughout the facility.

– We will be making sure that all of our youth program participants (ECS, J Club, youth sports, after school classes) will engage in frequent and proper hand-washing and that we remind them about proper usage of tissues and their disposal in their program noses.

**As the staff at the JCC works hard in the above-mentioned ways, there are steps that our valued members and participants should take to aid in our efforts to promote and maintain a healthy environment here at the JCC:**

– If you are not feeling well and exhibit any symptoms of illness, please refrain from using the JCC until all symptoms have subsided. If you have a fever, please make sure that you are fever free for 28 hours without the use of fever reducing medication before returning to the JCC.

– If your children are enrolled in any of our youth programs, please do not send your children to the JCC if they are sick. If you are an ECS family, please adhere to our "return to school" guidelines for your children after an illness. Also, if you are called to pick up any of our programs please arrive in as timely a manner as is safely possible.

– If you are planning to do any personal travel in the coming months and during the upcoming spring break season, please take a moment to familiarize yourselves with information about the areas where infection rates are high and the chance for disease transmission is heightened. We can find information on the CDC's Coronavirus Disease Travel Page [HERE](#).

– If you work out in the JCC Diamond Fitness Center, please use the sani-wipes provided to wipe down your equipment both before and after use.

– Please wash your hands frequently, consider carrying hand sanitizer to use if soap and water is not readily available, cover your mouth and nose when sneezing (if a tissue is not readily available use the upper part of your arm/sleeve), and properly dispose of tissues and paper towels in appropriate trash receptacles.

– Please do not leave any JCC towels that you have used in public areas, locker rooms or in the fitness center, but instead make sure to properly place them in the designated baskets.

For any of you who would like more information about the Coronavirus, frequently asked questions, or how to mitigate the transmission of the disease, I am providing the following links for your review: CDC Coronavirus Fact Sheet 1 and CDC Coronavirus Fact Sheet 2. For those of you wondering how to discuss this topic with children who may be anxious about what they are hearing, the following article is a wonderful tool for parents: Talking Tools for Parents. We will continue to monitor this situation and will follow guidelines as they are disseminated from local, state, and national authorities. We will maintain our commitment and diligent efforts to mitigate exposure to and transmission of infectious disease within the JCC community and ask that each of you please do your part in continuing to ensure the health, safety and well-being of everyone. As always, please feel free to contact us with any specific questions or concerns.

Sincerely,  
Rick Meizlish, JCC Board President and Mike Klapper, JCC CEO

Charity Navigator Rated

Jewish Community Center of Greater Columbus

1125 Olive Ave.,  
Columbus, OH 43209  
phone 614.231.2731  
fax 614.231.8222

[See all locations](#)

#### About the JCC

The JCC is a place that nurtures and living. Through its programs and services, the JCC provides an inviting Jewish Neighborhood and comfortable place to thrive. Hours: M-Th 5:30 am - 10 pm; Fri 5:30 am - 6 pm; Sat 1:30 - 6 pm; Sun 7 am - 7 pm



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