



May 18, 2020

Dear Manhattan Park District Families,

We hope this letter finds you safe, healthy and handling these very uncertain times as well as possible. As we continue to prepare for the return of in-person programming and offer limited programs virtually, our number one goal remains to provide high quality programs and services safely.

Although safety is a top priority at all times, we are faced with the implementation of increased safety measures amidst a constantly changing environment. These safety measures are in the best interest of both our participants and our staff. As you know, both the White House and the State of Illinois have released guidelines for re-opening businesses and organizations as the COVID-19 pandemic progresses. Both plans offer a phased approach with most of the details of these phases yet to come. Per the plans, these details will be guided by public health agencies and the status of COVID-19 in Illinois communities.

We are aware that programs related to child care, such as summer day camp, are very important to many of our families. We are preparing for the quickest, yet safest return to programming following the public health guidelines issued. What we can discern at this time is that a youth program like summer camp will most likely not be permitted until Phase 4 of the Restore Illinois plan. What is not yet clear is how public health guidelines might shape summer camp this year, specifically social distancing, face coverings, group sizes, and field trips.

Due to government guidelines and our utmost concern for the safety of our program participants and community, the Park District has made the difficult decision to postpone the start of summer camp. Although the situation is fluid and could change at any moment based on government guidance, we currently anticipate that we will begin summer camp on July 6.

We have updated online registration to reflect the changes in the camp season. Due to the fluid nature of the situation, we will not be collecting payments for summer camp at this time. However, we highly recommend that you register online for the camps you anticipate participating in this summer. Not only does that secure your children a space in those camps, but it also helps us plan and staff camp appropriately. Payment for each week of camp will be due the week before that camp begins.

Over the past couple of years, Park District staff has been working diligently to improve the quality of our programs, especially summer camp. We assure you that we will continue to provide high quality programs and work quickly to adapt to public health guidelines to maintain safety as our highest priority.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions about summer camp, and stay healthy and safe!

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