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## City of Centralia

[www.centraliamo.org](http://www.centraliamo.org)

March 17, 2020

Dear Centralia Recreation Center Members,

The City of Centralia and Centralia Parks & Recreation Dept. have been working to stay updated on the progress of the Coronavirus (COVID-19), and to keep up with recommendations made by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), as well as State and Federal agencies. To date, there have been eight confirmed cases in the state of Missouri, with none of those cases coming from neighboring counties or cities. While we don't know how seriously our city will be impacted by COVID-19, we are taking steps to ensure the health, safety, and wellbeing of our members.

The State of Missouri has declared a State of Emergency related to the COVID-19 outbreak. The decision to close the Centralia Recreation Center was not an easy one, but we feel that it is in the best interest of the community to do our part to help stop the spread of this disease. With the closing of Centralia and neighboring schools, we felt that closing the Recreation Center was the best step in an effort to provide for the health and safety of our Centralia family. Leaving the Recreation Center open with the unprecedented number of closings would create a magnet for people to congregate in large groups, and consequently be counter-productive to public health measures.

Along with increased attention to personal hygiene, such as frequent hand washing, the recommendation to practice social distancing, spacing at least 6-feet from one another is one of utmost importance. In an environment like the Recreation Center, social distancing becomes more difficult. According to the CDC, Covid-19 is mainly spread from person-to-person, between people who are in close contact (within about six feet) of one another, through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people nearby, or possibly be inhaled into their lungs. It may also be possible that the disease is spread when someone touches a surface with the virus on it and then touches their mouth or nose, which means you might be able to pick it up from an infected mat or piece of equipment. It is because of this risk that we have made the decision to close the Recreation Center through Friday, April 3, 2020.

We understand that this decision may not be the most convenient for everyone, but please know that we are thinking about the health and safety of all of our members and community first and foremost. City officials, employees, and the Centralia Park Board are working together to find the best solutions during this unprecedented situation with the COVID-19 pandemic, and we appreciate the support and patience of our membership and community while we continue to make difficult decisions. We will pass along all pertinent information in a timely manner as we make the decisions necessary to proceed.

**Everyone can help prevent the spread of the illness in our community with a few simple, but effective, everyday actions:**

*In our Community*

- Wash your hands often
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Cover your coughs and sneezes
- Follow guidance from the CDC, State of Missouri Health Dept, and Columbia/Boone County Health Dept.

*In our Facilities*

- Deep clean and sanitize all surfaces
- Identify opportunities for staff and the public to interact other than face-to-face
- Centralia Recreation Center will remain closed to the public through Friday, April 3, 2020.

We want to be your partner in reducing the risks of COVID-19. You can contact us by phone at (573) 682-2196, or email [centraliaparks@yahoo.com](mailto:centraliaparks@yahoo.com). For all current information from the City of Centralia, visit us on our website at [www.centraliamo.org](http://www.centraliamo.org), or find us on Facebook.

Sincerely,  
*Chris Cox*  
Mayor

*Erle Bennett*  
Park Director