Safety is the number one priority of Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast, and we are doing everything possible to keep children, our staff, and volunteers protected from the COVID-19 virus. We continue to monitor all updates from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Mississippi Department of Health for updated information. We are advising all our staff, families, and youth members to take precautions recommended by the CDC, as well as providing additional resources like handwashing guides, and information about how to talk to young people about the spread of COVID-19.

We will continue to monitor the issue and will provide additional guidance to our community stakeholders as we learn more. As always, we place the safety of our youth and staff at the highest level.

**BGCGC Policy Regarding Closures**

- If inclement weather or a public health emergency necessitates school closures by a school district, Boys & Girls Clubs in that school district will also be closed that day. This includes after-school programs and full day camps.
- If a known exposure or risk takes place within a Club site, that branch will close for the time necessary to limit risk to you and staff as well as appropriately sanitize and disinfect the Club facility.
- If a child in your care attends a school that is closed because of illness or a public health emergency, they will not be allowed to attend an alternate Club location that day.
- For timely, up-to-date details regarding Club closures, follow our Facebook page at Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast.

In addition to extra cleaning at Club sites, BGCGC staff will encourage and reinforce the following practices as outlined in the CDC’s guidelines for preventing and treating COVID-19:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Stay home when you are feeling any flu-like symptoms such as fever, cough, or difficulty breathing.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Follow CDC’s recommendations for using a facemask:
  - CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.
  - Face masks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others.
- Wash your hands often:
  - Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
  - If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.