

Boys & Girls Clubs of West Alabama and YMCA-Tuscaloosa Unite to Serve Children of Essential Workers during COVID-19 Crisis Fact Sheet

In response to the closings of Tuscaloosa school districts, Boys & Girls Clubs of West Alabama and YMCA-Tuscaloosa are opening to serve healthcare, government, public safety and other essential workers.

The organizations are monitoring the situation closely and will continue to operate as long as they are able to provide a safe environment for young people. They have placed enhanced health, safety and cleaning precautions and protocols in every Club.

The two organizations have entered into a Memo of Understanding (MOU) to coordinate responsibilities and services.

On March 20, 2020, over 600 children were identified by employers of essential personnel across Tuscaloosa County as needing child care. The Clubs and the Y will be providing services to approximately 160 of these children ages 6-14. Services could be expanded to more children if needed.

There is a \$16 per day program fee for this program. This fee will cover about 55% of the cost of running this program. However, no child will be turned away. Certain employers are offering to help their employees with this cost, but most families will be responsible for this fee.

Both Clubs and the Y will be open from 6:45am-7:15pm Monday through Friday. We will be running three sites with the following service limits.

Jaycee Park Unit – 70 children

2201 Alberta Pkwy
Tuscaloosa, AL 35404

Downtown YMCA – 40 children

2300 13th St.
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

Benjamin Barnes YMCA – 50 children

2939 18th St.
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

"Unprecedented times require unprecedented actions. We are partnering with the YMCA Tuscaloosa so that we can provide the safest and highest quality services to the children and youth of those people who are serving all of us throughout this crisis. In order for our Healthcare Workers and First Responders to do their jobs, they must have the confidence to know their children are safe. We are opening our facilities to ensure our healthcare employees, first responders and essential workers have a place for their kids to go so they can continue working and serving the community," Kim Turner, CEO Boys & Girls Clubs of West Alabama.

Our collective goal at Clubs and the Y is to provide a safe and fun atmosphere for every child who walks through the doors on a daily basis.

The programs are strictly following the CDC and Alabama Department of Health's guidelines to ensure a safe and healthy environment for all participants. Temperature checks are completed upon check-in, programming is administered in groups of 11, social distancing and hand washing are being taught and practiced regularly, and all spaces are sanitized and disinfected constantly by Boys & Girls Club and YMCA staff.

Meals will be provided via the Tuscaloosa City Schools and/or the Child Nutrition Program of Boys & Girls Clubs on a daily basis for all students.

Support the Clubs. Clubs could use a few more supplies right now. You can drop them at either the Club or the Y. We'll give you a safe-distance air high-five for your support!

- Cleaning supplies (wipes, cleaning sprays, paper towels, gloves, etc.)
- Hand sanitizer
- Packaged, single-serving snacks
- Financial Donations

FAQ:

What will capacity be at the open sites?

Site capacity varies. The Governor's office has indicated that childcare facilities are to have children in groups no larger than 12 and are required to meet the recommendations from public health to mitigate the spread of CoVID-19. Our Clubs are following those recommendations.

What steps are you taking to help protect children and staff?

We previously instituted additional sanitation and cleaning procedures to address the emerging concern. We are also conducting health screenings for everyone entering our Clubs and the Y that include:

- *Families and staff are asked at drop off if they have had contact with anyone who has had a confirmed case of the Coronavirus or is currently awaiting test results in the last 14 days.*
- *If the answer is yes, the youth is unable to attend and the staff is unable to return to work until after the quarantine period has elapsed*
- *We will continue to require Youth & Staff to wash their hands upon arrival at the club and will wash thoroughly before eating meals or snacks and through the day.*
- *If a site experiences a confirmed case of Coronavirus of either a staff member or one of our youth, the site will close down for at least two days to allow for the disinfection of all surfaces within the club.*
- *Temperatures are taken before entry; if it is over 100.4 degrees, staff or youth will be sent home and encouraged to contact their primary care provider.*
- *No one is allowed in the buildings except Staff and children. Parents are requested to pick stay in their car and a staff member will greet them and bring their child(ren) to them.*

Do you have enough space for social distancing?

Yes. Some of our sites can accommodate many youth, and still allow us to leave from social distancing.

How many kids are you seeing at the remaining open sites during this health situation?

It's difficult to tell at this time how many families will be in need of our services due to the rapidly changing and emerging news as the state and community leaders pivot to address the situation.

How many staff will you have at these Clubs?

Our ratio for this program is 11 children to 1 staff member.

How much will this extended program support cost?

The daily fee is \$16 per child. Boys & Girls Clubs of West Alabama current members will have a \$5 a day fee if their parent is considered an essential employee. No one will be turned away. We will work with families during this time, as always. However, this fee will only cover about 55% of the actual cost of running a 12.5 hour a day program.

Wouldn't it just be safer for families to keep kids at home?

We understand that families may choose to keep kids at home, but for those who cannot work from home, such as first responders, healthcare workers, grocery workers, etc., we're here to support them with extended programs.