



Dear Parents and Guardians:

As Schools begin to finalize their decisions regarding re-opening this fall, the Boys and Girls Club of East Aurora has been brainstorming with our staff, parents and board of directors on how we can best support our families and schools with Covid-19 still impacting our lives. Although we will not be able to operate in our traditional Club fashion in Fall, 2020, we are happy to announce that we have developed a plan to offer support for our families during this challenging time. The Club will not be the same and will be more restrictive, but our primary concern is the safety of our staff and members until the pandemic is behind us.

After much thought, the Club has decided that we need to continue to do what we do best and provide after-school programming. The “Traditional” Club (that has always been a “drop-in center” as opposed to our licensed School-Age Program) will offer an After-School Programs for youth in Grades 2-8 at the Paine Street facility. The Club’s programs and services will run Monday-Friday afternoons (the Club will be closed on scheduled school holidays, i.e., Columbus Day, Veterans Day, etc.) from 2:00-6:00 p.m., regardless of the format that the East Aurora schools will be offering to students.

Enrollment will be limited to 75 youth per day on a first-come, first-served basis with five (5) cohort groups of members and no more than fifteen (15) in each group. Each group will be led by a high school or college student who will act as their daily Club counselor. Counselors will lead their cohort groups from their daily arrival program area to participate in program activities led by our Main Staff (Neil, Witt, Matt, Allie, Gavin, Jeff) in the Teen Center, Games Room, Main Gym, Arts and Crafts Room, Multi-purpose Room and Computer Lab/Learning Center.

Club Staff will employ and manage all of the Covid-19 safety protocols that we have put in place to keep our members and staff safe while they are in our care. These include: weekly health and wellness checks, daily temperature scans, the wearing of masks by both staff and members, increased hand washing/hand sanitizing, increased cleaning and disinfecting, and social distancing. Our success at Camp Ska-No-Ka San this summer has us very optimistic that we can take what we employed and learned at camp about mitigating the spread of the virus and apply it to keeping our kids safe at the Club.

Members can arrive and leave the Club at times of their choosing during our hours of operation; however, parents will need to share their schedule with us because we cannot allow members to come and go as they please once they are at the Club. Upon arrival at the Club, members will join their cohort in whatever program area they are in at the time. Members must check-in AND check-out at the front desk.

A typical Day at the Club might look something like this:

- 2:00 – 2:30 – Arrival – Temperature Scans and Wellness Checks
- 2:30 – 3:15 – Triple Play Challenge in the Main Gym followed by a Game of Kickball
- 3:15 – 4:00 – Teen Room Favorites – Trivia, Karaoke
- 4:00 – 4:45 – Social Distancing Dodgeball in the MP Gym or RC Racing
- 4:45 – 5:30 – Learning Center – Homework Home/Tutoring/Technology Programming
- 5:30 – 6:00 – Parent Pick-Up

These changes in operation will unfortunately affect the Club’s fee structure. We have always prided ourselves on being able to offer a quality program for a modest annual fee of \$150 per year but due to the increased need for doubling the number of staff, the PPE supplies required, the upgraded cleaning materials and the programming costs for supplies and equipment for social

distancing programming, we must charge \$15.00 per day. We will not, however, turn any child away due to financial reasons. For any of our member families who cannot afford the cost of \$15.00 per day, we are happy to work with you with a modified fee schedule so that your son or daughter can enjoy that benefits of the Club. Scholarship applications are available at the Club to determine if you qualify for a partial or full scholarship depending on your financial situation.

Members must commit to attend the Club a minimum of 2 days per week for a 10-week program cycle. Refunds for days not attended will be issued should the pandemic force the Club to close down or if you or your child determine that the Club program is not for you.

To apply for a spot for the first 10-week cycle of the Club program, complete the enclosed Registration/Membership Application, additional copies are available on our website at [www.bgcea.org](http://www.bgcea.org), and return it to the Club by email to [loconnor@bgcea.org](mailto:loconnor@bgcea.org), by mail or by dropping off in the Club's mailbox. All spots will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. All Registrations will be promptly reviewed and you will be notified of availability and invoiced accordingly. Please do not enclose payment at this time.

We all know and understand that the "Covid Boys & Girls Club" is something totally different and we hope to return to our normal operation as soon as possible at some point in the future; but we hope that this opportunity will provide parents who are working remotely with some time to focus on their work while your kids are at the Club for a few hours. We also hope that we can provide our members with a different, but great opportunity to interact with friends while participating in a variety of Club programs and activities. Members won't have the freedom they have had in the past to pick and choose what they want to do while at the Club, but this is a great time to try new program areas you might not have chosen before!

We hope you will join us for an exciting fall and that you will embrace the changes that we are offering. Please do not hesitate to call the Club at 652-4180 if you have any questions or concerns.

**Some other notes:**

Evening Programming - Grades 7th - 12th - The Club is hoping to eventually be able to offer social distancing evening skills & drills for basketball and other sports (no-official play) and social distanced social/leadership clubs meetings for both Torch Club (7th-8th Grade) and Keystone Club (9th-12th Grade). Stay tuned for more information via email through Constant Contact, on our website [www.bgcea.org](http://www.bgcea.org) and from our Program Staff of when we might be able to re-start some of these programs for our older Club members.

The School-Age Program— Our licensed School-Age Program is working on before and after school options at Parkdale, after school at the Club (Paine St.) and is taking a good look at our ability to provide half-day and/or full-day care for students from Parkdale & the Middle School that will be impacted by a hybrid model. However, the Licensed School Age Program cannot commit to providing full day or half-day care until we fully understand the approved school format, which should be available to all of us later this week. At this point in time, we are faced with a shortage of teachers/teacher aides to assist us with full day or half-day care but will do our best to offer as many School Age Child Care spots/classrooms as we can to accommodate the needs of our EA families. We are very optimistic that we can cover the two classrooms at Parkdale with the staff that we currently have in place. As of August 11, 2020 a good portion of our morning and afternoon spots are filled at both Parkdale and the Club but please contact Deb Becker at 655-5051 by phone or email her at [dbecker@bgcea.org](mailto:dbecker@bgcea.org) to see what days of the week might be available or to get your name on our waitlist. If you know of anyone looking for some employment who enjoys working with children, please send them to us.

Gary D. Schutrum, CEO Boys & Girls Club of East Aurora