

Update as of February 11, 2021



Dear Parents & Guardians,

Despite Governor Gianforte's decision to allow the current statewide mask mandate to expire on Friday, March 12, 2021, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Yellowstone County will continue to follow our current COVID-19 safety protocols and practices, which includes requiring every Club member, staff, volunteer, and guest to wear a face covering when they are inside our Clubhouses, Micro-Sites or vehicles.

While I recognize there are different opinions regarding the wearing of face coverings, this decision is based on CDC recommendations and my desire to take every reasonable precaution to protect our members, our team and to keep all Club sites open for the kids.

I appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we continue to do Whatever It Takes to keep our members safe and ensure they have access to a world-class Club experience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian Dennis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Brian Dennis
President & CEO

Decision Process regarding Individuals & Modified Operations

Given the ever-changing nature of the coronavirus pandemic, the following information is intended to serve as a guide for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Yellowstone County as it relates to determining the status of individuals and/or modifying the schedule and operations of each Clubhouse and Micro-Site. It must be understood that each situation will be unique, and our Club professionals will use the best available information and guidance to make decisions that provide the best protection for Club members, our Team and the Community.

Decisions on Individuals

Those Who Exhibit Illness

- Any Member, Staff or Volunteer who exhibits a fever or other symptoms of illness will be sent home and cannot return until they are symptom and fever free for 72 hours without the use of medication.

Those who are a Close Contact

- Any Member, Staff or Volunteer who is identified as a close contact of an individual who tests positive for COVID-19 must quarantine for a minimum of 14 days.

Those Awaiting Test Results

- Any Member, Staff or Volunteer who is awaiting results from a COVID-19 test must quarantine until they receive the results of their test.

Those who Test Positive

- Any Member, Staff or Volunteer who tests positive for COVID-19 must quarantine for a minimum of 10 days from symptom on-set and must have a letter from the Yellowstone County Health Department clearing them to return.

Decisions to Modify Site Schedules or Operations

It is the intent of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Yellowstone County to take every reasonable step and precaution to maintain normal operations at each Clubhouse and Micro-Site. However, there may come a time when the Club needs to temporarily suspend attendance, schedules and/or operations at a Clubhouse or Micro-Site. If the Club determines there is a need to modify the schedule or temporarily close a Clubhouse or Micro-Site, each family from that site will receive a phone call from a Club professional.

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Since the COVID pandemic hit Billings back in March, we have worked to share the latest and best information with you so you could plan and make the best decisions for your family. It has been a long-time coming, but I believe we are finally in a position to share our basic operational plan for the coming school year, which we believe gives us the best opportunity to serve as many members as possible.

However, while I am hopeful all the pieces will come together, I need to be very clear, all of this information is **TENTATIVE** and requires our team to complete additional work and secure the necessary approvals

This is the school-year service information that I am most confident in:

Bair Family Clubhouse

- We plan to re-open the Bair Family Clubhouse on August 31 to serve 30 members from Orchard Elementary and 20 members from Riverside Middle School.

Castle Rock Clubhouse

- We plan to re-open the Castle Rock Clubhouse on August 31 to serve 30 members from Sandstone Elementary and 20 members from Castle Rock Middle School.

McKinley Clubhouse

- We plan to re-open the McKinley Clubhouse on August 31st and will strive to serve 40 members per day.

Medicine Crow Clubhouse

- We plan to re-open the Medicine Crow Clubhouse on August 31 to serve 30 members from Bitterroot Elementary and 20 members from Medicine Crow Middle School.

The next information I want to share is about our new “micro-sites” plans, which have a good deal work and approval remaining. However, I am hopeful that if we can secure the necessary approval, funding and hire enough part-time staff, we may be able to get all the micro-sites open within the first few weeks of school opening.

Newman, Ponderosa, Broadwater, Washington & Miles Avenue

- If we can secure the necessary funding and hire the staff, we plan to open sites at each elementary school for up to 30 members per day. Please know that we expect to stagger the opening of each site in the order they are listed.

Beartooth, Bench & Eagle Cliffs

- If we can secure the necessary funding and hire the staff, we plan to open sites at each elementary school for up to 30 members per day. Please know that we expect to stagger the opening of each site in the order they are listed.

Lockwood Clubhouse

I am very excited that we are planning to resume our Lockwood Clubhouse experience this school year, but our Lockwood planning has the most unresolved elements, which means I do not have concrete information to share with you. However, as we continue to get details figured out, I do want to share the following generalities with you:

1. We are working on a plan to provide support and service to elementary students who will attend the morning and afternoon portions of the school day.
2. We are working on a plan to provide after-school support to the middle and high-school students who are on campus each day.
3. It is unlikely that we will be able to serve members until the Tuesday September 8.
4. How quickly we can re-open the Lockwood Clubhouse and what services we can provide depends a great deal on additional funding and how many staff we can hire.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Next week the Club will release our School Year Registration details, but I wanted to share that we plan to hold in-person registration at the Bair Family Clubhouse on August 19 & 20. Please keep an eye out for more information on the registration process.

MEMBER ELIGIBILITY

As I stated in my letter, at this point we can only accept those Club Members who were enrolled as a member from September 2019 through May 2020, which includes those members able to attend the Club this summer.

PART TIME STAFF NEEDED

If we can secure the funding, much of the implementation of our school year plan depends on our ability to hire part-time staff. If you or someone you know is interested in working at the Club please go to <http://begreatyellowstone.org/employment-opportunities/> for information.

Please remember our team is working to provide the maximum level of service this coming school year but as I mentioned above, it is all **TENTATIVE**. I also know this letter will create many questions so please give our team a call next week and we will do the best we can to share the most current information with you.

Thanks,



Brian Dennis
President & CEO

Update as of July 23, 2020



Dear Parents & Guardians,

As we approach the beginning of August, I want to share what I can regarding our planning efforts to serve as many members as we safely can during the upcoming school year.

Billings Public Schools

Our team is working with District Leadership to build off the District's efforts to keep kids safe and determine the best after-school service options. I am hopeful we will find a path forward that allows the Club to serve more members from our "regular" Elementary and Middle Schools and that we can share those plans soon.

Lockwood Public School

Our team is working with District Leadership to integrate Club services for Elementary, Middle and High School members into the Lockwood School Year plan. I am confident the Lockwood Clubhouse will resume on-site service this fall and that we can share the details soon.

Membership Eligibility

While our team is working to provide a daily Club experience for as many youth and Teens as possible, I want to be transparent about what I think is likely. In my opinion, it is likely we can only serve a portion of those members enrolled during last school year and that we will not be able to accept any new members. I hope to be proven wrong and the situation will change, but you will likely need to secure a different after-school option if you are:

- a family that has access another after-school alternative other than the Club, or
- hoping to register your child as a new member.

Part-Time Staff Recruitment

In order for the Club to serve more members this fall, we need to recruit and hire a number of high-quality part-time professionals. If you or someone you know is interested in joining our Club Team, we would like to visit about our part-time employment opportunities. For more information, please email info@bgcyellowstone.org and we will get back to you.

As always, we are here to answer questions and do what we can to support your family, so please give me a call at 406-245-4457 or speak directly to your local Clubhouse leaders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian H. Dennis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Brian Dennis
President & CEO



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF YELLOWSTONE COUNTY

Update as of July 15, 2020

July 15, 2020

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Effective July 16, 2020, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Yellowstone County will require all members, staff, volunteers, vendors and guests to wear a facemask while in one of our Clubhouses. To comply with this new safety directive, individuals can wear any:

fabric, paper, or disposable face covering that covers the nose and mouth and which does not have an exhalation valve.

I understand there will be an adjustment period for our members, many of whom have not previously worn a mask. However, this step is necessary and I ask for your support and assistance with helping your child understand the importance of this new safety precaution and their role in keeping themselves and their friends safe.

Finally, we will not be able to allow any individual, five (5) or older, who is unwilling to wear a mask to enter or remain in one of our Clubhouses.

I would like to thank you in advance for your cooperation as we continue to adapt so we can continue safely serving those who need us most. As always, if you have questions or just need to talk with me, please do not hesitate to give me a call at 406-245-4457.

Thanks,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian H. Dennis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Brian Dennis
President & CEO

Update as of June 5, 2020



Dear Club Parents & Guardians,

Castle Rock Clubhouse

We are pleased to announce that in partnership with Billings Public Schools and following safety guidance from the Yellowstone County Health Officer, we will re-open the Castle Rock Clubhouse on Monday, June 15th to serve up to 100 members. Summer participation will continue to be invitation only and these new spots will be for school-year members from the Castle Rock and Medicine Crow Clubhouses including those currently attending the Bair Family Clubhouse.

More Members at Bair Family

With the Castle Rock and Medicine Crow members leaving the Bair Family Clubhouse, we will invite more school-year members from the Bair Family, Lockwood and McKinley Clubhouses to fill the vacant spots.

Lockwood Clubhouse

The conversation with Lockwood School on opportunities to provide in person programming this summer continues but we do not have new information to share.

While we are pleased to open the Castle Rock Clubhouse, we know more kids need the Club and we remain focused on finding opportunities to provide service to more young people. Please monitor our Facebook page and website for the latest information and if you have questions or need to talk to someone, call me at 406-245-4457.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brian Dennis", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Brian Dennis
President & CEO

Update as of June 01, 2020



Dear Parents,

At this point, we have made nearly all the calls for the Summer Program spots currently available at the Bair Family Clubhouse. We continue to have conversations with Billings and Lockwood Schools about opportunities to serve members at our school-based sites. As information becomes available, we will share it with you.

Please stay tuned to our website and Facebook page for new information and as always, if you have questions please give me a call at 406-245-4457.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brian H. Dennis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Brian Dennis
President & CEO

Update as of May 22, 2020



Dear Club Families,

As we head into the Memorial Day weekend, I want to share the latest information we have on efforts to re-open our Clubs so we can safely serve more of *those who need us most*.

Bair Family Clubhouse Summer Program

In consultation with the Yellowstone County Health Officer, we will re-open the Bair Family Clubhouse on June 1, 2020 and eventually serve up to 100 members per day. However, to comply with safety guidelines and provide the best possible experience, we must do something we have not done before – ***register Club Members by invitation only***

In the coming days, our Clubhouse Teams will review the current list of school-year members and build an invitation list from each of our five Clubhouses. It is my expectation that the invitation list will be complete next week and the parent/guardian calls will be wrapped up the week of June 1st.

School-Based Summer Programs

We are in conversation with both Billings and Lockwood Public Schools to determine options to re-open one or more of our school-based Clubhouses and as we develop more information, I will share that with you. However, for now, we will not re-open any of the four school sites.

Remote Service Possibilities

In an effort to expand our reach, our professionals are exploring a number of options to provide “remote services” for members to engage with our Club professionals and receive some level of support and engagement this summer. Please keep an eye on our Facebook page and website for more information about these opportunities.

While we are limited in the number of members we can serve in-person this summer, we remain committed to exploring every reasonable option to do more for *those who need us most*. As we develop new information, I will keep you informed and as always, if you have questions or need to speak with someone please give me a call at 406-245-4457.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brian Dennis", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brian Dennis
President & CEO

Update as of May 8, 2020



Good afternoon,

Earlier today, we spoke with the Yellowstone County Health Officer and while we see positive signs, we are not in a position to change our current operations or announce any plans for the 2020 Summer Program. There is simply too much uncertainty about the impact of the re-opening of local businesses and until additional time has passed, no decisions can be made. We will meet with the Yellowstone County Health Officer on May 22nd and it is my hope sufficient information will be available so we can announce plans for the summer program.

As always, please keep your families safe and if you have questions or need someone to talk to please feel free to call me at 406-245-4457.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brian H. Dennis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Brian Dennis
President & CEO

Update as of April 24, 2020



Dear Club Parents,

I hope this note finds you and your family safe and healthy. Our entire team miss your kids and we are working to resume operations as quickly as it is safe to do so. However, it is with great regret that I tell you, based on the best information available; we have decided not to re-open any Clubhouses prior to June.

To determine what options are available for the Club's 2020 Summer Program, we met with the Yellowstone County Health Officer earlier today. While the Governor has laid out his plan to begin reopening Montana, it is just too early to know when Montana will move to Phase 2 of the plan, which is when we expect to be able move beyond our current emergency service program and begin to finalize our summer plans.

We will meet again with the Health Officer on Friday, May 8th and after that meeting I will share with you what we learn and any information I can regarding our plans for Summer.

Thank you for your patience and if you have questions or need to speak with someone, please feel free to call me here at the office at 406-245-4457.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brian H. Dennis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Brian Dennis
President & CEO

Update as of April 18, 2020



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF YELLOWSTONE COUNTY TO PROVIDE SERVICES DURING SCHOOL SHUTDOWN

[Billings, MT], [March 19, 2020] – Beginning, Monday, March 23, 2020 The Boys & Girls Clubs of Yellowstone County will open the Bair Family Clubhouse at 505 Orchard Lane, to provide a full day experience for a limited number of current members. The Bair Family Clubhouse will be open from 7:30 am to 6:00 pm for current Club members, who are homeless, have a parent working for one of the hospitals or who are first responders. The current members who are eligible to attend next week have already received a call from local Club professionals.

According to Brian Dennis, President & CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Yellowstone County; “for nearly 50 years, our local Club has maintained a singular focus on serving *those who need us most*, and today more than ever we must make every effort to safely serve as many members as we can during these challenging times.”

Details on the Daily Experience:

Current members who attend this full day experience will find it very similar to the normal full-day Club experience, which includes:

- three meals per day,
- math, science and reading enrichment,
- daily fitness and recreation opportunities, and
- healthy lifestyle programming.

Additional Safety Procedures:

The Boys & Girls Club will implement additional safety and sanitation procedures to take all reasonable precautions to keep our members and staff professionals safe. Those extra steps include:

- taking temperatures of all members and staff when they enter the building and at lunch,
- limiting group sizes and reducing the interaction between groups during the day,
- aggressively cleaning each Club space multiple times each day,
- a “quarantine” room for members who exhibit symptoms to wait until they are picked up, and
- restricting parent/guardian access to the building.

General Club Information:

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Yellowstone County has been serving kids since 1971 and regularly operates five Clubhouses in many of our community’s toughest neighborhoods. The Club’s trained professional staff delivers high quality programs to children & Teens age 6 to 18 years old, which emphasize education and career development, the arts, character development, life skills and sports and recreation. For more information about the Boys & Girls Clubs of Yellowstone County, please call 406-245-4457.

Update as of March 15, 2020



The Boys & Girls Clubs of Yellowstone County makes the safety and well-being of our members, staff and volunteers a top priority so we will close all five Clubhouse from March 16 through March 20, 2020. During this closure the Boys & Girls Club will identify additional safety protocols and service schedules we can implement to serve those who need us most while protecting our members, staff and community. We appreciate your understanding during this difficult time and if you have questions please contact the Program Support Center at 406-245-4457 or visit our Facebook page