



March 16, 2020

**Press Release: For Immediate Release**

**Closing Facilities & Programs**

After much consideration and consulting with numerous sources regarding Covid 19, the Jerome Recreation District has determined that it is in the best interest of the community to close the Jerome Recreation Center beginning on March 17, 2020 until March 29, 2020. All fitness and recreational programs are suspended during this period. This is not something that was taken lightly but in an effort to “flatten the curve” of spread in our community and in the state, we feel that we needed to be proactive in our response. We encourage people to not panic. This will be a disruption but life will return to normal. Let’s be proactive and mindful of our neighbors while maintaining good health practices.

**What Programs are Impacted?**

Updated CDC guidelines recommend no gatherings of 50 or more people for public events for the next 8 weeks. Therefore, youth spring soccer will be cancelled at this time. Also, the annual Easter Egg Hunt will also be cancelled at this time. The Mother/Daughter 5K run will also be cancelled at this time as it falls within the 8 week CDC recommendation. The youth volleyball program will look to be rescheduled once normal activity resumes.

All regular recreational programs like Tae Kwon Do and Tumbling will be suspended from March 17 to March 29, 2020.

All group fitness classes and gym use will be suspended from March 17 to March 29, 2020. This is a fluid situation that changes almost daily and we will update people as often as possible as things develop.

We will still be taking online & phone registrations for T-ball, coach pitch, adult softball and the soon to be announced machine pitch league. Plans for the upcoming pool season are still being planned but just know that there is a lot of uncertainty as we go forward and originally planned dates may change. We will update you as often as we can.

**Why Was this Decision Made?**

The Jerome Recreation Center has 100’s of people pass through daily. This includes all age ranges from the very young to the vulnerable population for those over 60. With schools closing during this same period we felt that the responsible thing to do was to close. Otherwise, it may create the false sense that people should send their children to our center if we were still open.

P.O. Box 289  
2032 S Lincoln  
Jerome, ID 83338  
208-324-3389  
208-324-3380 fax

Other considerations for the adult population included evaluating whether community distancing practices could be effectively implemented in the spaces we have and the likelihood of community spread given the nature of the programs and fitness opportunities we offer. Once again we did consult with various people to come to this decision.

### **Wellness Opportunities in the Interim**

The Jerome Recreation District does encourage people to take your wellness seriously. Our parks and pathway are not closed. However, we do recommend that you follow good community distancing practices. Wash your hands, cough into your elbow, avoid touching your face, and most importantly, if you are sick please stay home.

The JRD will also be posting daily workout options on our social media that can be done on your own at home or in the park. These will include recommended cardio and body weight exercises for various ages. It is important during these uncertain times that you look to maintain your wellness both physically and mentally. We will also look to schedule remote workouts with our instructors that you can follow along and do from home.

### **What about Fees & Memberships?**

All memberships that are currently active will be automatically extended for the number of days that we are closed. We will keep everyone updated as to when regular hours are re-established.

All paid registrations for programs will be contacted. Some may just want the refund and others just may want the credit applied to their child's account. Staff will be contacting you to discuss your options.

If you have questions please contact us at 208-324-3389.

**Sincerely,**  
**Gary Warr, Director**  
**Jerome Recreation District**

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