



March 15, 2020



Dear Kids & Fitness Families,

Our hearts go out to anyone who has been affected by COVID-19; whether they have been infected or are experiencing disruptions from this outbreak. We understand there are many questions and variables during this time and wanted to reach out personally to share with you the protocol the EDGE is following as well as our plans moving forward, should things progress. We are dedicated to improving lives and will continue to strive to be a positive role model in our community.

As always, our top priority remains the health and safety of children, families and teachers at Kids & Fitness. Working in a partnership as a community and with public health care networks allows us to minimize the risk of exposure to this virus.

As of today, Governor Scott has ordered an orderly closure of all schools this week. This directive, which will be distributed to schools later today, will last through April 6 – but may very well be extended for a longer period. The Edge Kids & Fitness will remain open on Monday, March 16th for normal business hours for those families who do not have any other childcare arrangements. We ask that families be prepared to collect any personal belongings you may need during this shut down as the facilities will not be accessible after Monday, March 16th. The teachers will be convening on Tuesday, March 17th for in-service, as originally scheduled, in order to strategize on ways to meet the needs of our Kids & Fitness families during this time.

While the center is open tomorrow, as recommended by the Vermont Health Department, we are adhering to the following:

-  **Encourage sick individuals to stay home.** The EDGE has instructed all staff, children, and families to self-screen at home. If children or staff become sick, the EDGE will keep sick individuals separate from well children and staff until they can leave.
 - If individuals have a fever, cough or shortness of breath and have not been around anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, they should stay home away from others until 72 hours after the fever is gone and symptoms get better.
 - If an individual believes they have had close contact to someone with COVID-19 but are not currently sick, they should monitor their health for fever, cough, and shortness of breath during the 14 days after the last day they were in close contact with the sick person with COVID-19. They should not go to work, childcare, or school and should avoid public places for 14 days.
-  **Posted signs.** As part of routine measures for the respiratory season, existing signs are visible in all Kids & Fitness facilities reminding staff, visitors, and children to perform hand hygiene (sneeze/cough into their elbow, put used tissues in a waste receptacle and to wash hands immediately after using tissues). Recommendations to everyone to avoid close greetings like hugs or handshakes.



- 🧹 **Perform routine environmental cleaning.** On a daily basis all Kids & Fitness childcare facilities are cleaned and disinfected using hospital grade disinfectants. During the month of March, the EDGE added additional daytime disinfecting. On Tuesday, March 17th during in-service will have a planned deep clean at each facility.

Continuing to pay teachers during a safety closure will require partnership of enrolled families. Our plan is to continue to collect tuition throughout the closure. Any closure beyond April 6th shall be reevaluated.

During this extended closure teachers will stay in contact via phone and email with families to support them from a safe social distance with ideas, strategies and learning opportunities to allow our students to continue to grow cognitively and socially. This is uncharted territory for everyone. We know with your support we can work as a team to make the best out of this situation. Using various forms of technology and social media the Kids & Fitness teachers and students can stay connected and help ease both the transition away from and back to school.

This is a difficult time that is presenting a multitude of challenges. Please take comfort in knowing that each and every one of you is an important and integral part of our Kids & Fitness family. We will get through this together with mindfulness, cooperation and understanding. Thank you for your partnership and continued support and for pulling together to help keep everyone safe.

Resources

Questions about COVID-19? **Dial 2-1-1**

[Vermont Department of Health COVID-19 site](#)

[Parent and Caretaker guide for helping families cope with COVID-19](#)

[Just For Kids: A Comic Exploring the new Coronavirus](#)

[Talking to Children about COVID-19 - A Parent Resource](#)

[Talking to Children about COVID-19 \(Spanish Resource\)](#)