



REVISED ON MARCH 23, 2020

Martinsburg-Berkeley County Parks & Recreation knows the concern surrounding the Coronavirus and it continues to be a concern to us as well.

Due to the worldwide outbreak of the COVID-19 coronavirus we have implemented the following in an effort keep our patrons and the community safe and healthy:

Effective Monday, March 23, 2020: We will close our offices to the public for the safety and concern of our customers and staff. We will have staff available to assist you by phone at 304-264-4842 or email at info@mbcparks-rec.org if you have questions or need information regarding Parks & Recreation facilities, programs/classes or registration issues. Our online registration is still available. If you prefer to hand-deliver your registration form, you can utilize our drop box located outside our Administrative Office door at the Berkeley 2000 Recreation Center (payment types accepted for this method are check or money order only; no cash please). These registrations will be processed by staff during business hours and you will receive an email receipt (or a printed copy can be mailed to you, if you prefer. Please make a note of this request). We appreciate your understanding and flexibility during this time.

ALL M-BC Parks & Recreation leagues, programs, classes and activities held at any facility have been suspended until further notice. This includes gymnastics (classes and open gyms) and dance classes; all fitness classes and morning gym walkers.

We have not cancelled our activities, but rather placed them on-hold while we all navigate through this. It is our hope that this will be a short-term issue, but if we find in the coming weeks that we cannot complete a program and make-up days are not possible; or are unable to even offer an upcoming program in which registration has taken place, a partial or full (depending on the case) refund will be issued. Please note that we will make contact with those registrants as decisions are made.

With the WV state government's decision to close all schools and recommendations by the Center for Disease Control on participation in and large group gathering of 10 people or more, we feel this course of action is the best preventative measure to take. With Berkeley County Schools as one of our governing entities, we feel it is best to make our decisions for resuming programs, classes and activities when the schools determine it is safe to return children to classes and extracurricular activities.

In regards to our open spaces, we want to let our residents know that at this time our public parks remain open, however, there are some restrictions we want to make you aware of. **At this time and until this situation subsides, we are temporarily removing the basketball hoops and volleyball nets to discourage those contact and close-quarter activities; all restrooms and water fountains are not available for use; the use of any playground equipment is prohibited since the virus can live on hard surfaces for a longer period of time. These areas will be temporarily fenced off. All park pavilions are closed until further notice.**

You can use the park spaces for walking, hiking, jogging and other non-contact activities that abide by the recommendation to keep at least 6' of distance between yourself and other park visitors. We encourage you to bring hand sanitizing wipes or gels to use before, during and after visiting the park to help prevent the spread of any communicable diseases. We know the importance of being active the advantages of the open-space that parks offer. However, we want to be mindful of those around us who may have compromised immune systems or other underlying health concerns who may also be taking advantage of getting fresh air and exercise in one of our parks. Again, we are monitoring the orders and recommendations of state and local government to determine if any changes to our park status need to be made.

Please keep watch of our M-BC Parks & Recreation Facebook page and our website for up-to-date information. We will continue to be in communication with the Berkeley County Health Department and monitor what the CDC advises. We will do our best to update our patrons as soon as possible with any new information we may receive.

To stay up-to-date on the latest with the coronavirus outbreak, visit:

- [Center for Disease Control & Prevention / Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Berkeley County Health Department](#)

We continue to emphasize the importance of taking proactive and preventative steps and encourage and/or adopt practices protecting the health of employees, customers, visitors or others. Here are some general reminders on how to prevent the spread of communicable diseases, to include influenza and coronavirus:

- *Wash your hands frequently with warm, soapy water for at least 20 seconds.*
- *Cover your mouth with tissues or your forearm whenever you sneeze or cough.*
- *Avoid people who are sick with respiratory symptoms.*
- *Disinfect frequently touched surfaces, especially in common areas.*
- *Stay home if you or your child are experiencing any sickness or symptoms of sickness (recommend 24 hours after being fever-free without the aid of fever-reducing medicine)*
- *Avoid touching your face, mouth or eyes with unwashed hands.*