



YMCA of
Owen Sound Grey Bruce

Update!
July 24, 2020

Our YMCA's approach to re-opening has been guided by the following core guiding principles:

1. A commitment to the health and safety of our staff, participants, volunteers, and the community
2. Prioritizing programs that meet our community's greatest needs
3. Being financially responsible to sustain the long-term viability of the Y as a charity
4. Supporting our employees by calling back staff from temporary lay-off as soon as possible

We truly appreciate your patience and understanding during this challenging time!

Our YMCA's initial response to supporting our community's recovery from the impact of the COVID was a commitment to supporting families as parents returned to work. On July 6 we re-opened our 5 Early Learning Child Care Centres in Owen Sound, Port Elgin, Hanover, Kincardine and Ripley.

We also commenced offering Summer Day Camp to children age 5-12 years of age out of our Health, Fitness and Aquatics facility located at the Julie McArthur Regional Recreation Centre in Owen Sound. We have received feedback from families, that without these important services, parents would not have been able to return to work. We are very pleased that our child cares and day camp are supporting this important community need.

To assist with our re-opening plan we surveyed our Health, Fitness & Aquatics members to find out what changes would help you feel comfortable in returning to your Y, when you would like to return, and the types of activities you are looking forward to. Your responses indicated that there are some members that can't wait to get back to the Y, but most members are more comfortable waiting a while longer before returning to us. This is understandable, with the current situation of COVID-19 and because it is summer with many activities that can be done outdoors.

To meet the Provincial and Public Health guidelines for groups no larger than 50 and to maintain physical distancing, groups of people doing similar activities may be grouped together in "pods", so that the people in the pod can remain separate from each other. The number of people in a pod cannot exceed 50 and may be lower due to physical distancing requirements. Currently, we are planning for three pods in our building:

1. Our summer day camp located in the main floor program rooms and gymnasium is one pod. The camp runs until August 28.
2. The aquatic centre is the second pod.
3. The second-floor conditioning centre and weight training area is a third pod.

Starting on **August 10, we will be piloting a limited number of different workout activities in our pool and conditioning centre/weight training area** to provide our members with the opportunity to come back in to the Y to see what we are doing to help keep you safe, and have a workout. We are putting the final touches on that activity schedule for the pilot and will have further information out next week.



In the meantime, it is important for our members to know what to expect as we start into the **FREE pilot phase**:

1. Initially, only existing teen, adult and senior members of the YMCA of Owen Sound Grey Bruce will be permitted in the facility based on activities being provided. Because we can only allow a certain number of people in the facility at once, we won't be allowing access for guests, day passes or members from other YMCA's to give our members more chances to use their Y. Membership fees will not be taken during this time.
2. All staff and members will be screened before entering the building, using a COVID questionnaire and taking a temperature check.
3. Extra cleaning, over and above our current excellent standards, will be implemented, including "fogging" of the building daily.
4. We will be implementing physical distancing of 2 metres for all activities and 3 metres for high-intensity activities.
5. Members must commit to following our public health guidelines, including:
 - a. Wearing a mask throughout the building other than when actively engaging in an athletic or fitness activity including water-based activities; consuming food or drink; for any emergency or medical purpose;
 - b. Physical distancing;
 - c. Washing hands;
 - d. Following proper sneeze/cough etiquette; and
 - e. Cleaning the equipment before and after use.

Members and staff must respect each other and work together to keep each other safe.

We realize these protocols are all new and our staff will provide gentle reminders when needed however, in the interest of our staff, members and community's safety, anyone consistently found not following protocols will not be allowed to access the facility.

6. We will be piloting different workout activities starting August 10 to phase our members back in to the Y.
 - a. Not all amenities will be available or may have restricted use when we re-open, such as locker rooms and showers, the running track, steam room and water fountains.
 - b. Our learnings from our pilot phase will shape our formal re-opening. New phases will be added once the existing phase is running smoothly and safely, or restrictions may be loosened/removed.

Please continue to participate in Kathleen's yoga classes and Trevor's fitness classes, and to access the on-line fitness and health programming at [YHome](#). It now has two additional program areas: YCamp and YHealth.

GIVE A LITTLE, HELP A LOT CAMPAIGN



There's still a few days left for the **Give A Little, Help A Lot** campaign, running until July 26. Shoppers at our local Zehrs store here in Owen Sound will be asked if they wish to add a donation for the YMCA of Owen Sound Grey Bruce on their purchase.

Donations help children attend camp, access swimming lesson and other programs that support growth of spirit, mind and body. We are so thankful that Zehrs Markets has selected the YMCA to be the recipient of this campaign and appreciate your support.

SEE YOU SOON!

Again, thank you for your patience and understanding! We look forward to seeing you again during our **FREE pilot phase** and at our formal re-opening on August 31, 2020. Further details regarding membership re-activation and our fall programming brochure will be communicated in upcoming weeks.

Please watch for further announcements on our [YMCA website](#) as well.