



Our thoughts on opening up the ICC

The goal of a community center is to bring people together. In our current environment that is hard, but not impossible.

Coronavirus will be sticking around American society for a while. Our new normal must be to accept that there is risk and to manage it, just as we do with seatbelts in cars and with checklists for pilots. The trick is to manage risk carefully, by paying attention to the work of epidemiologists who, through federal and state agencies, provide us with guidelines, and by keeping abreast of changing local conditions. This will be an ongoing community effort. Personally, our responsibility is to minimize the chance of carrying the virus and infecting somebody else; and institutionally, it is to provide as safe a space as we can to reduce the probability of being exposed.

As we reopen your Community Center, we want you to know how we are thinking about the process and the factors we are taking into account. Epidemiologists talk about viral loads, dispersal patterns, "R" factors, and source suppression. But in our everyday lives, we need that information in practical form. A lot of it is common sense.

- If you are sick (high viral load), stay home.
- Wear a mask (source suppression) to keep those nasty droplets contained
- Choose outdoor activities rather than indoor gatherings so that the wind can blow the airborne virus away (dispersal patterns).

Epidemiologists tell us that risk is a function of time, distance, and location. Quite simply, if you spend a long time close together and indoors, your risk goes up. If you are just passing each other, far apart and outdoors, your risk is low.

As we begin a careful phased opening of the various activities in the Community Center, like the fitness center, the office rentals, the community hall, the rented-out café space, the farmers' market, the gift shop, the toilets, and exercise activities, we'll be looking at this equation. Remember: We are mitigating risk. Going virtual is the ultimate distancing (infinite distance = zero risk), as core fitness and yoga classes are already doing. But we are social animals and do miss the in-person human interactions.

What the ICC will be doing: piggybacking on the best epidemiological knowledge available, at a minimum by following the CDC and state re-opening timelines and guidelines, including disinfecting protocols. When possible, we'll organize activities outdoors or in a big space.

We ask you not to bring the virus to the ICC. If you are coming into the ICC, please do the following:

- Think about where you have been and with whom and in what numbers
- Wear a mask
- Wash your hands
- Keep practicing physical distancing
- Minimize your time and don't linger

When you visit the ICC, you'll see signage to help you move through the facility safely and responsibly. We'll do our part to protect you and our staff as we open up and once again bring people together.