



Our commitment to keeping the young people we serve safe is always our number one priority. Following the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak, it's important that you know Boys & Girls Clubs of Topeka is doing everything possible to keep your child, our staff and volunteers protected from its spread. We are also closely monitoring reports from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and The Shawnee County Health Department (SCHD).

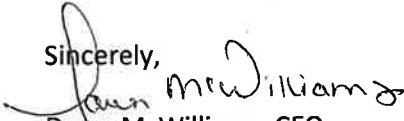
As a reminder, we recommend these preventive actions every family should take to prevent exposure to COVID-19.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Follow CDC's recommendations for using a facemask:
 - CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.
 - Facemasks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others.
- Wash your hands often:
 - Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
 - It takes an average of 11.8 seconds to sing the entire *Happy Birthday* song, so if you sing it twice, that will ensure you've scrubbed long enough. This is a great method to share with children in your family. While this measure is simple, it is effective.
 - If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
 - For more information about handwashing, see [CDC's Handwashing](#) website
- The CDC also provides [specific guidance for travelers](#).

At this time, there is no evidence that children are more susceptible. Children should engage in usual preventive actions to avoid infection, including cleaning hands often using soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer, avoiding people who are sick, and staying up to date on vaccinations, including influenza vaccine.

The National Child Traumatic Stress Network offers a [Parent/Caregiver guide](#) for COVID-19 with more helpful information for families.

Should you have any questions or concerns about this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact me directly. Our commitment to you and your children is unwavering.

Sincerely,

Dawn McWilliams, CEO