



September 2, 2020

Dear members of the AGOAC, AOAC, MOTM, OAIA, Thornhill Older Adult Club and Middlefield Wellness clubs:

I hope this message finds you well. We recognize that this has been a very difficult time for everyone as we navigate the unknowns of the COVID-19 pandemic.

When the pandemic hit, it caused all City of Markham facilities to close, to help stop the spread of the novel coronavirus.

I wanted to take this opportunity to provide you with an update on Recreation services moving forward, specifically as it relates to seniors clubs and programs.

The City of Markham continues to take a responsible and measured approach to reopening, which is guided by recommendations from public health, the Government of Ontario's [Framework for Reopening Our Province](#) and the City of Markham's *Response, Recovery & Reinvention Plan*.

Our reopening plan includes a very gradual return to programs and services being offered and phasing in the re-opening of facilities and amenities. At this time, we will not be opening up any seniors centres, along with a number of facilities that groups are based. The health and safety of our community and staff remains our number one priority.

What this means specifically around seniors services is that clubs will be put on hold for a year. We will work with your board representatives to offer programs throughout the city that will be available to all seniors in the spaces that we do have available.

Staff and representatives from the various seniors boards and clubs are now working together to determine what programs will look like in the upcoming seasons. In the meantime, a variety of free [resources](#) and [activities](#) are available to the public on the City's website.

Many of you have asked about membership dues. Staff and board members are reviewing the options regarding memberships and we will provide you with an update once it is determined.

This pandemic has changed all of our lives and how we operate. We will continue to work through the impacts of this pandemic, together as a community.

For the latest information on COVID-19 and affected City services, visit [markham.ca/covid19](https://www.markham.ca/covid19) or contact the Contact Centre at 905.477.5530 or customerservice@markham.ca.

Stay safe, stay healthy and be kind. We are all in this together.

Sincerely,

Mary Creighton
Director, Recreation Services
City of Markham