



March 16th, 2020

Letter from the Board to the OAK Membership RE: COVID-19 Pandemic

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Oakville Aquatic Club, I would like to provide you with an update in respect of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Undoubtedly as we are all now aware, the severity of this Pandemic and its impact are reaching all corners of the globe and we must take measures to protect our members, employees and the greater community.

While the situation is ever-changing and new information is becoming available by the hour, I would like to highlight some of the recent actions taken here at OAK:

1. Taskforce Established

The Board of Directors has established a Taskforce with a specific mandate to assess several key areas of risk that may exist in the immediate, mid and long term. This Taskforce is comprised of both Operational Leadership and Board members with specific experience to address varying factors. You can expect to see more detail in the coming days/weeks as we outline our 'next steps'. The Taskforce will also be guided by external bodies, including the directive of our governing swim bodies, all levels of Government and applicable Health Authorities.

2. Programs Suspended

As already communicated, all OAK programs will be suspended through April 6th. While we remain hopeful that all Town facilities will be able to return to normal operations then, the reality is this may not be the case. Operational Leadership will be working directly with the Town of Oakville and Swim Ontario to determine any appropriate course of action if it is feasible to get swimmers back in the pool April 6. The Taskforce will also consider factors where program restart is extended beyond April 6.

3. Bunker Access

In consideration of the recommendations to avoid 'socialization', particularly in confined spaces, effective immediately OAK will be limiting Bunker access to all swimmers through April 6th. As noted above, the Taskforce will continue to determine an appropriate course of action towards getting back to 'normal' routine.

4. Employees and Office Open Hours

In consideration of Employee health and safety, effective immediately the OAK office will be closed through April 6th. All staff will be working from home however the team you have come to rely on will remain accessible to answer any questions or concerns remotely.

Contact: Please continue to direct all inquiries to: office@oakvilleaquatics.ca

5. Training

Given the uncertainty of a possible return to 'normal' date and in consideration of the commitment and hard-work put into this season, the Coaching team will be working on alternative self-led activity during this program suspension. This may include physical and mental health tools to guide our swimmers, stay tuned for more updates in the days ahead.

The Board of Directors would also like to thank all of our dedicated staff and coaches for their hard-work in leading the club through this very difficult situation. We are all mindful of the impact these difficult decisions have on our members and athletes, in particular those who have trained to peak performance levels in preparation for the Canadian Swim Trials and 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

We would love to see nothing more than a quick return to the pool but we will continue to make decisions in the coming days and weeks that consider the best interests of you our members, our employees, the swimmers, the club as a whole and the community in which we operate.

I would also like to thank you, our members, for your patience and cooperation as we work through an unprecedented time for OAK. I look forward to providing you with more information in the days and weeks ahead.

Sincerely,

David Shemilt, President
Oakville Aquatic Club