Dear J&M Families,

We have our first week indoors completed it was wonderful to see everyone so excited and we just want to keep that excitement and focus on swimming moving forward in the coming weeks. We will also continue to tweak little things here and there to make sure the swimmers and coaches are staying safe. We’ve had some great feedback from parents already, thank you. We have also noticed kids are not always putting their masks on right away after getting out, now that we are indoors it is a must. We are watching as many of them as we can during transitions to ensure everyone gets their masks on. We did ask for and receive more bleacher space so we can keep all the groups more separated at Lee District at night.

We know and as many of us are also parents, that swimming is the one normal activity that our kids can be doing right now. The coaches recognize that for most of the swimmers we are their only ‘teacher’ and this is their only in person interaction outside of home most days. By reconnecting with their swim friends and meeting new swimmers that have joined this year we are able to give them a bit of normal and it is wonderful for us too. Encourage them to talk with each other, as long as they are still listening to us, doing the workouts and have a mask on when not in the water. We like to hear how their days have been as well. This is our swim family and we care about every member on the team.

Please continue to arrive on time, no more than 10 minutes before your practice starts, continue to maintain social distancing when waiting and if it is inclement weather stand under the many overhangs while you wait. It is the best we can do and maybe the various rec centers will get tents at some point. Continue to take your temperature before coming to practice and make sure you are at the correct exit door after practice ends.

After this first week we do have a few housekeeping items to share with you. Some are site specific so read carefully.

~ It is fine right now to have the kids walking out in a towel and flip flops. However, start planning for the mornings and evenings when the temperature is cooler and they need coats, hats (mandatory to have hats on wet heads) and sweatpants. This might be something you need to start practicing at home so when the younger swimmers are finished, they can quickly towel off and put warm pants on and a coat or parka and hat.

~ At Lee District, there is a lot of kids and adults walking down to the sundeck entrance. From here on out, please walk your swimmer down and avoid driving down and dropping off. We understand the dive team is there too and yes, some of those parents drive and park but we will walk our swimmers down and eliminate as much car traffic as possible.

~ At some point, mostly during an evening practice some child in lessons will have an accident, it never fails and when that happens, we will obviously evacuate the pool. Now that parents can’t just sit upstairs some of you will be away from the facility. We just ask that you have a plan with your swimmer or with another swimmer and parent, so if practice is finished early due to pool closures we know all the swimmers will be taken care of.

~ Communication, it is important, if you have a question please email your swimmers coaches. If your swimmers’ coach can’t answer your questions then reach out to Jeff, Matt, Paul or Trish. All the coaches will be emailing more and keeping you updated.

~ Travel policy, many of you are new or returning to the team and were not swimming with us this summer. Attached is the travel policy and it goes over when you can file for an exemption to the 200 mile rule and always as a reminder let your coaches know when you are going out of town.

~New Parent Meeting, we will be holding it via zoom on Thursday September 24th. While this is for new parents, any parents can attend and are welcome. The exact time and link will be sent out that week. Plan for either a 7:30 or 8 pm start time. Bring your questions and we will have Jeff, Matt, Paul Makin and other coaches on to talk.

As always thank you for letting us coach your swimmers,

Jeff King and Matt Murray and the J&M Coaching Staff