



Town of

# Longmeadow, Massachusetts

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**For Immediate Release: June 12, 2020**  
**Town of Longmeadow Update COVID-19 Coronavirus**

## **Playgrounds and Basketball Courts Reopen, Summer Camps and Pools Will Not Open, Recreation Fields are Open and Limited Team Sports/Sports Leagues Beginning, Greenwood Daycare Will Open in the fall**

Today, town playgrounds and basketball courts will begin to reopen. Basketball hoops and nets will be restored and signage will be placed at play structures notifying users of safety guidelines that should be followed when using a play structure. Residents using play structures should wash hands frequently and follow social distancing protocols of wearing masks and/or maintaining six foot distance from non-household members. The Town will not be sanitizing equipment and surfaces between uses.

After a lengthy review of the COVID-19 guidance for summer camps we have made the decision that it is not feasible to open recreational summer camps this season. Given the complexity of keeping campers and staff safe as defined in the guidelines, the Parks & Recreation Department could not offer the quality programming that camp participants are accustomed to. The Parks & Recreation Department is evaluating if there are programs that can be offered this summer that would meet the health and safety guidelines while also maintaining the standard of programming they are committed to offering.

The Department of Public Health guidance related to opening community pools has also been reviewed and given the complexity of that guidance and the limited capacity that would be allowed at each facility, we have made the difficult decision to not open Bliss and Greenwood pools this year. Given that the splash pad is located in the Greenwood Park pool facility, the splash pad will remain closed for the summer season as well.

Recreation fields are open and limited team sports/sports leagues use of the fields will begin soon. For now, groups of 10 or fewer may use the fields but no scrimmages or games are authorized until the Town receives more guidance from the State. The Parks & Recreation Department will be looking at offering various sports clinics during the summer that are held outside and limited to 10 participants at a time. It is important to note that all activities, if they are happening, will be different than they have been in previous years. We will put in place precautions to minimize the likelihood of spread of COVID-19, but it will take a community effort of conducting ourselves responsibly for this to be a safe summer.

Greenwood Daycare Center will remain closed through the summer. Daycare staff are reviewing the guidance and applying it to the facility to ensure that a reopening in the fall will be done following all necessary health and safety guidance.

The community response to battling the pandemic has been tremendous and we are seeing those efforts pay off in the declining positive case numbers in Town. However, taking these necessary steps by not opening camps and pools will assist in ensuring the decline of the virus in our community continues.