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PRESS RELEASE

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Coronavirus: Rec Centers enacts two-week closure

With our residents' safety always our No. 1 priority, the Recreation Centers of Sun City West is taking the unprecedented step of closing all of its indoor facilities effective 5 p.m. Thursday due to concerns about coronavirus. The facilities will remain closed for a two-week period, tentatively reopening Monday, March 30.

"This has been a difficult decision for us, one that we have been weighing for a few weeks now," stated General Manager Bill Schwind. "What it comes down to is, safety has always been our first priority in all that we do, from budgeting decisions to maintenance priorities. With the coronavirus, there are a lot of unknowns, which has made this decision even harder. But what we do know is we have a high-risk population just based on age. Add in all the club rooms and confined spaces where these residents gather, we believe the time has come to mitigate the risks as much as possible."

There are no known cases of Covid-19 in the community. However, several state and national agencies and officials - including the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, Gov. Doug Ducey, and Arizona Fire and Medical Authority – have urged individuals who are at elevated risk for Covid-19 complications, to curtail their activities and their contact with others

Those older than 60 are considered higher risk, with that risk increasing with age. Additionally, those with heart disease, diabetes, lung disease and other chronic conditions are considered higher risk. "The Rec Centers has 27,224 members. Nearly 100 percent of the 27,224 members are older than 55," said Schwind. "Some 45 percent of those are older than 75; this doesn't include the oldest of our population who live in care facilities and aren't members of the Association but do interact with our members."

The CDC advice states: "If you are at higher risk for serious illness from COVID-19 because of your age or because you have a serious long-term health problem, it is extra important for you to take actions to reduce your risk of getting sick with the disease."

The four Recreation Centers, Sports Pavilion, Library, Village Store and Administrative Offices will be closed. All club facilities will be closed. Club members are advised to remove their personal items from the club rooms prior to 5 p.m. Thursday if they will need access to in the next few weeks.

Due to the fact the golf courses are not in an enclosed space, the seven golf courses will *not* be closed at this time. The pro shops will remain open to check-in golfers, and the heightened disinfection procedures already in place will continue. The golf courses and pro shops may be closed in the future if circumstances warrant.

Members who need to pay their dues can mail them to the R.H. Johnson Recreation Center, 19803 R.H. Johnson Blvd., Sun City West, AZ 85375; or call 623-544-6100 to pay by phone with a credit card. Those who plan to golf are encouraged to put money on their accounts by calling that number.

Residents are advised to watch suncitywest.com and sign up for the Rec Centers' enews or follow us on our social media pages for the latest information.

- Facebook: Recreation Centers of Sun City West
- Twitter: @rcscw
- Instagram: @suncitywest_az

All Board meetings and Committee meetings scheduled during this two-week closure will be canceled. Happy Camp was canceled earlier this week. In addition, the Rec Centers will cancel the Spring Fair (which was scheduled March 21), as well as the Easter Egg Hunt in Beardsley Park (April 11) as those activities have a high number of outside visitors and children. No other special events have been canceled at this time, including this weekend's outdoor Spring Fest, but that could change at any time and residents are advised to heed the CDC's advice if they are high-risk. The last Top Hat shows ("Aretha") at 3 and 7 p.m. Thursday at Palm Ridge will continue as planned.

Those who have booked trips and tours, or who have purchased special event tickets, are advised to consider their own health situations when making decisions on whether to participate in those activities. We will notify the community of any changes to these ticketed events and bookings as this situation evolves.

Rec Centers' staff will remain on campus during the closure, and will focus on cleaning, maintenance, and handling any administrative work including that associated with the closures and cancellations. Employees who are at high risk for Covid-19 complications are advised to talk to their supervisors for guidance.

Residents are encouraged to visit the CDC website at cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov for information and guidance on how to mitigate their own risks and prepare themselves and their families. Residents are advised to watch suncitywest.com and sign up for the Rec Centers' enews or follow us on Twitter at @rcscw to stay abreast of local conditions pertaining to the Rec Centers. Any event cancellations or facility closures will be announced there. Arizona Fire and Medical Authority is the local agency responsible for working with residents throughout the community. Follow AZFMA on Twitter at [@azfireauthority](https://twitter.com/azfireauthority) or visit afma.az.gov.

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