



**BE HEALTHY.
BE SAFE.
WE ARE ALWAYS
HERE FOR YOU.**

September 3, 2020

Dear Y Member,

I'm looking forward to Labor Day. My husband and I plan a quiet day at home, maybe finishing a home improvement project that has taken too long.

Our Y is closed on Labor Day. This gives our staff members time to rest and relax while reminding all of us of their great work for our Y and our community. I'm proud of all of our staff members. Many stepped forward to work Pandemic Child Care when Ohio first shut down. Those early weeks were uncertain and even frightening, yet we never missed a day of child care due to a staff shortage. Many of our full-time staff transitioned to working from home in just a day's notice. When we reopened for fitness, most staff who were asked didn't hesitate to return. From our group exercise instructors to member service representatives, our staff didn't hesitate to be here to welcome back, and reconnect with, our members.

Labor Day is "... a national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country" (dol.gov). Monday is a unique Labor Day in our history. I say thank you to the workers in healthcare, public safety, food distribution, public transportation and others who stayed on the job to keep our infrastructure active during this pandemic. I'm also thinking of the trials many workers are facing; and of those who, through no fault of their own, lost a job due to the pandemic.

This Labor Day is also unique because we're still in a pandemic. We need to be cautious of gatherings and all the social events this holiday weekend normally includes. Marion County citizens have done well to bring our coronavirus cases down. So well that we moved to a Level 1 County. We should say congratulations to ourselves. However, we can't let this stop our vigilance. I urge everyone to stay home this weekend and if you do need to venture out wear your mask and maintain social distancing. Let's not let the virus take advantage of this holiday.

Last week's member newsletter included information on programs we're adding in September. If you missed last week's newsletter, you can find it with [this link](#).

As we look ahead, here are a few things we're planning for our members:

- Child Watch to return later in September.
- Continued Child Care opportunities for [preschool](#) and [elementary school age](#) children.

- Expanded weekend hours, including Sunday hours, starting October 1.
- Moving some classes to the gym to allow more participants while giving plenty of space for social distancing
- Continued vigilance and protocols that, to the best of our ability, protect the health of our members, staff and the community at large.

Thank you for being a member of the Marion Family YMCA. Your membership helps strengthen our community.

Theresa Lubke
Executive Director