



May 29, 2020

**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR**

- Department of Parks and Public Property
- Department of Recreation

*A.A. J.O.K.*

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After more than a month of careful consideration, and ongoing discussion the Lyndhurst Parks and Recreation Department has made the difficult, but necessary decision to suspend Lyndhurst summer camp for the 2020 season. As we examined the information available to us by the CDC and other health organizations the main issue, of course, was how we could ensure the safety and physical well-being of all campers, and our team of camp staff. Initially, we made the decision to delay the start of camp with the hope that by July we would be in a better situation. Information regarding proper health and safety procedures continues to change almost daily. This week we made the decision that a safe and efficiently run summer camp season would not be possible for 2020. Based on the information we have, and recognizing there is much we can't yet know, we must acknowledge the real risk to physical safety that would be posed by gathering people together at camp in the near future.

While there are complex and lengthy guidelines that have been sent out by various government and health organizations some of them made it impossible for camp to function. New guidelines and restrictions include, but are not limited to:

- NO sharing of toys, games, balls, sports equipment. Masks MUST be worn by all
- NO shared spaces including cafeterias and playground
- NO field trips, assemblies, or external organizations within camp
- Daily health and temperature checks of campers and all staff
- NO switching of groups, or switching counselors from one group or activity to another

As we talked about needed health and safety changes, too many aspects central to our campers' experience, were being stripped away. This is not a situation any of us ever thought to be in. We understand that many of you, (both our campers and their families), look forward to camp and all of the fun and friendships it provides each summer. We do, too. Sports, art projects, eating lunch/ice cream in groups, socializing in small groups, playing games, enjoying field trips; all of those would have been drastically changed this summer, changed in ways that would have negatively impacted our campers' experience. Please know that this decision was not easy. I am convinced, however, that it is the correct decision to make. We will be back next summer, when we look forward to a brand new chapter for our camp, and new adventures for our campers. This year will be one of those years we will never forget. It will impact us tremendously, and change the way we operate. We will continue to work to ensure sure that those changes are for the better.

Sincerely,  
Thomas Cafaro  
Camp Director/Township of Lyndhurst, Recreation Coordinator