



PRPS Virtual Roundtable April 14, 2020 Program & Events Discussion

Question: What are organizations doing regarding signage at their facilities to continue to promote social distancing? Additionally, for communities with multilingual residents, how are you reaching out to those residents and what have your challenges been in getting information out?

(Ken Lehr) - CDC has recommendations for park signs at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/parks-rec/park-administrators.html>

(Kristy Owens) - This sign was from Pittsburgh

American Red Cross Information

(Jhane Kunkel) I was informed yesterday CPR training is shutdown through May.

(Karen Schreiber) - I am having a hard time convincing the higher ups about cancelling a large scale event scheduled for June 13th. What points could a use to make them think that this event is not a good idea in the present environment?

(Jennifer Bracken Fean) - These are non-certification options.

Question: Is anyone experiencing instructors who initially offered virtual programming, and are now deciding to charge participants? The instructor is expecting the township to facilitate this.

(Megan Prusienski) - I know one township was using venom, then others were suggest to send checks in to the township.

(Tonya Brown) - We have one that we asked to do virtually and he wants paid and we are not doing it. We are paying our exercise programming instructors for their time as it is a weekly program. One and done programs we are NOT paying them.

(Derek Muller) - We are not involved in any virtual programs w/ financial components

Question: How far out have people cancelled programs and events at this point? Through the April 30th 'stay at home order'? May? June?

(Jennifer Bracken Fean) - We have provided links for 3rd parties we have worked with but registration is right through them - not our program, just a resource and trying to help businesses we work with if we can

(Katie Kollar) - We have cancelled through Memorial Day. (Upper Moreland)

(Jhane Kunkel) - Through may

(Audrey Logar) - Has anyone canceled special events in May already?

(Kristy Owens) - Through April right now

(Judy Houck) - Spring Township - we have cancelled through the end of May.

(Karl Lukens) - Lansdale is canceled thru May.

(Keith Kurowski) - Yes, Borough of West Chester is canceling all events/activities thru the end of May.

(Angela Russell) - Limerick has canceled through the end of the Month but have canceled bus trips to NYC and AC through June.

(Chris) - Forks Township has allowed cancellation through May

(Megan Prusienski) - through the end of April currently, Perkasio

(Lisa Shaughnessy) - Through April but preparing to cancel through May

(Tonya Brown) - Thru April now, but will be working on May week by week

(Jessica Tholey) - Abington Township is cancelled through April 30

(Emily Labowitz) - Whitmarsh Township is cancelled through May

(Sue Canniff) - Mechanicsburg through May.

(Kevin Sanders) - Harrisburg City-We have cancelled all permits thru April. We will most likely cancel park rentals thru the Middle of May. Our Memorial Day event is cancelled and changed to online festival.

(Ken Lehr) - West Goshen through May

(Ashton Rosenberger) - Quakertown Events through June. programs through May

(Dave Hutner) - We are cancelled through May. Evaluating June next week.

(Alicia Marziani) - Malvern Borough- next event is in July for now, The Borough Manager made the call

(Keith Kurowski) - Being told to cancel or postpone

(D Ludwig) - South Middleton through May.

(Tonya Brown) - Since we are part of school district, end of May will be forced on us.

(Debbie) - Yesterday I cancelled all park use through May including a 5K, picnics, tournaments.

(Erin Long) - Warwick is cancelled through end of April, with reevaluation to come

(Tonya Brown) - https://www.mbgd.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=841214&type=d&pREC_ID=1874106

(Tammy) - Upper Dublin canceled through 4/30 - reevaluating tomorrow. Large events canceled through 6/30

Question: Are any of you using third party vendors and how are you handling your contracts?

(Gina Tophoney) - Lower Merion Twp., we are using Soccer Shots and Young Rembrandts to run virtual. They are charging a fee.

(Tonya Brown) - Our summer camp instructors are doing sports virtual skills.

Question: Summer Camp? What are you plans at this moment?

(Josh Green) - We are in a holding pattern for summer camp

(Gina Tophoney) - Lower Merion Twp. : Lower Merion School District cancelled all usage through June 19

(Tonya Brown) - Our administration is deciding or discussing at the end of the week for programs in June

(Keith Kurowski) - Still up in the air regarding Summer Camp. Most likely going to be cut from 8 weeks to a shorter time frame pending restrictions being lifted. Borough of West Chester

(Jhane Kunkel) - Lower Dauphin isn't providing work permits at this time in dauphin county. they are working on way to apply for online.

(Kevin Sanders) - Harrisburg City-Summer Programming, we moved back our start date to June 22, 2020. I am moving all field trips to start after July 4th, 2020.

(D Ludwig) - South Middleton have not heard from the school district yet. We hold 90% of our camps on school district facilities.

(Derek Muller) - Montgomery Twp - Received an email back from North Penn SD that they have not had any discussions about summer activities in their schools. Our decision is partially based on their verdict, but also will be informed by our Supervisors and solicitor

(Debbie) - What about weather if you go totally outdoors? will you ask participants to stay home?

(Katie Kollar) - Not yet but we are considering it

(Kristy Owens) - Not yet...we've talked about doing it outside at a pavilion

(Tammy) - Upper Dublin is considering Zoom staff orientation

Question: With regard to adjustments of camps (starting later, reducing number of participants, etc.). Is the decision being left to the elected officials, managers or Parks Department?

Question: Staff training – virtual?

(Josh Green) - Yes we will definitely be doing virtual staff training if we are given the go ahead

(Kevin Sanders) - Harrisburg City for training we are working to operate part of training online for sure. SafeSport is an extension of the mandate reporter training, we focus significant time on this during in-person training.

(Ken Lehr) - Weather: We always used pavilion in past, but might cancel (if we have summer camp) to prevent crowding.

(Judy Houck) - Spring Township - our Board is considering cancelling Summer Playground Program which is held at 6 different parks - they are concerned about ability to disinfect play equipment, parks with only portable toilets, etc.

(Tammy Echevarria) - Currently program and event status is being left to staff to make decisions

(Jhane Kunkel) - I called the FBI clearance unit's local number and it says it's being done manually through paper and results mailed. So everyone would need to apply soon to have it in time.

Question: What are others doing about park opening for unorganized, public play, and then for scheduled team use, and then for tournaments. Graduated, soft opening for use or all at once? When is it safe to schedule league play? June? What about public pool openings?

(BK) - This may be an opportunity to reach out to local community groups like Lions, Kiwanis, Shriners, etc - there are many smaller communities where the local pool and park is owned by the Lions.

(Kevin Sanders) - Harrisburg City-We have kept the Parks open for walking, running. No permits have been approved.

(Debbie) - The problem with the pop up tents is that they are designed for shade not for shelter. I have seen them completely destroyed by a quick heavy rain

(BK) - Many volunteer fire departments, American Legions, VFWs, etc have large meeting halls - perhaps they may rent / share the space for free

(Debbie) - Northampton Twp cancelled group rentals and 5K's through May

(Kristy Owens) - Fields are just closed through April

(Megan Prusienski) - we were putting out a message like Towamencin about if you don't stop gathering we'll have to close the parks completely.

(Judy Houck) - Our fields are closed through May as well as our pavilions.

(Ryan Griffiths) – City of Allentown - cancelled all organized activities (Field Rentals/Pavilion Rentals) through May. City of Allentown- Special Events are out of a different department, but also cancelled through May

(Megan Prusienski) - we're also waiting on the governor for the go ahead. I was hoping there'd be an update this week - that we'd be at the peak and could move forward.

(Audrey Logar) : If special events are canceled through May does that include not opening pool Memorial Day weekend?

(Kevin Sanders) - Harrisburg Park is looking at phasing our rentals back in. We are monitoring the Governor direction. With the Schools Districts being closed until next year, this provides six or seven weeks to phase into the summer.

(Kevin Sanders) - Harrisburg City Pool Opening: We moved back until at least June 23rd

Question: Is everyone working from home now? Is everyone still putting in 40 hours a week? How have your employers taken care of you as park professionals?

(Tonya Brown) - Working well over 40 hours per week. I would go back to march 12 any day

(Derek Muller) - Waiting for word from the governor to see how programs and events will have to be handled in terms of size and space restrictions. Right now it's too vague to create a plan that will stick.

(Ken Lehr) - Working from home. Because everything on hold, working about 20 hours per week.

(Kevin Sanders) - Governor provides the guidance and adjusted thru our Mayor into Department heads.

(Josh Green) - Thankful to be working from home!

(Audrey Logar) - yes working from home all day regular hours.

(Tyler Walker) - I am working in the office 8-4

(Lauren Irizarry) -Working from home. About 20 hours per week

(Jessica Tholey) - I am working 40 hours a week and I am working from my regular office

(Judy Houck) - Not working from home - in office everyday - working more than 40 a week, handling a lot of non park stuff

(Jennifer Bracken Fean) - Regular hours from home - yes

(Tammy Echevarria) - Upper Dublin fulltime staff is working 40 hours per week remotely

(Ryan Griffiths) - Close to as 40 as possible, but it's tough to balance work, spouse and education duties.

(Gina Tophoney) - Lower Merion Twp. : Regular hours from home (maybe more)

(Tonya Brown) - I am on the food relief program. I am essential and spend many hours in the school getting the food ready for delivery

(Alicia Marziani) - Malvern Borough- working from home for the last month. working 40 hrs a week at home until further notice

(Kevin Sanders) -Harrisburg City I am working 40 hours or more, I have weekend employees as well to coordinate with. Office Staff can work remotely

(R Scott) - We are 40 hours per week, at the Center. Only full timers are permitted to work.

(Mike Kukitz) - Regular hours - working from home - stopping in the office if necessary

(Tonya Brown) - our staff will be in May in the food relief.

(Megan Prusienski) - attempting to work 40 hours, have not been asked or forced to take sick time

(Megan Prusienski) - our school district is handling the food with two sites.

(Jessica Tholey) - other staff are present

(Donna Ludwig) - South Middleton is still going into the office. 40 hours a week, but we working 4 ten hour days, with different folks on different days.

(Derek Muller) - Mix of work at home & time at the Community Rec Center. We are to document 30 hours of work each week. (Montgomery Twp)

(T Bauknight) - Working 40 hours / week in the office, 9 other staff members working here too

(Gina Tophoney) - Lower Merion Twp : If someone needs to go in the office, they are in there solo and disinfect common areas upon arrival and departure

(Chris) - Middle Smithfield Township, Monroe County - All township staff working 40 hours a week mostly from home. Staff schedules occasional in office hours with the supervisors to ensure only 2 or 3 are in the building at a time.

(Kevin Sanders) - Harrisburg City, I have one person who elected to go back into the office. My Rangers have not stopped working.

(Keith Kurowski) - Borough of West Chester, Just myself (Director) working remotely around 40hrs a week. My #2 was furloughed and does not have access to our info as her accounts were put on hold

(Judy Houck) - only 4 or 5 people in the building, some staff have been furloughed

Question – What are you doing to prevent large groups using your parks and facilities? Has it continued to be an ongoing issue?

(Kevin Sanders) - Harrisburg City, we have compliance issues in the Parks. We had to block our basketball hoops

(Jessica Tholey) - We took down all basketball hoops

(Keith Kurowski) - We took the rims down to stop the groups from gathering

(Megan Prusienski) - we had to remove hoops, use caution tape on playgrounds, and lock all fencing like the dog park and skate park.

(Erin Long) - Warwick has covered the hoops with fabric

(Kristy Owens) - We took down our nets, then roped off the one area of the court that was open, posted a sign

(Mike Kukitz) - We have blocked basketball hoops, roped off playgrounds and removed a few disc golf baskets

(Sudha) - yes, taking down rims/tennis nets and locking playgrounds and areas that can be

(Mike Kukitz) - Open spaces, trails and fishing still permitted

(Ken Lehr) - West Goshen locked off skatepark, basketball courts, tennis courts, and dogpark.

(T Bauknight) - Barricades at park entrances, caution tape around playgrounds. locked tennis courts, barrels with caution tape down the center of the basketball courts.

(Judy Houck) - We had to remove tennis and volleyball nets, remove basketball rims and put up orange construction fencing around the play equipment.

(Chris) - Fork Township. We removed all the basketball rims. Chained all fencing possible and posted signage

(Debbie) - Northampton took our rims down. Locked the hockey rink. roped off the playgrounds with caution tape. Tennis nets down

(Tammy Echevarria) - Upper Dublin - we have caution taped off amenities, pavilions, playgrounds, exercise equip etc. taken down basketball nets/hoops and locked turf field and tennis courts

(Voli) - I was on a call with Florida- palm beach- and they took the basketball rims down and had the public cut open a milk carton and string it over the backboards to continue playing.

(Kristy Owens) - We posted bright orange signs on our disc golf course - at every hole

(Keith Kurowski) - Our police are in charge of "breaking up" larger groups in our parks and in general. Not an easy task as you can imagine

(Gina Tophoney) - Lower Merion Twp: Lower Merion has put signage at multiple entrances to all parks roped off playgrounds, blocked hoops and locked tennis court and hockey rink

(Dan Russell) - Caution taped all playgrounds, needed to put zipties and brackets on the basketball hoops, chained and padlocked courts and skate park. Shut off park lights at night. Police and park staff are patrolling the parks.

(Jessica Tholey) - Locked our skatepark, removed tennis nets, roped off playgrounds, and posted signs.

(Kevin Sanders) - Harrisburg City-Park Rangers and Police have informed the public and compliance is an issue daily. If the weather is nice, compliance is an issue. Playgrounds are not used that hard in the spring in Harrisburg. We have uptick in homelessness and people cooking out

(Alicia Marziani) - we have all parks roped off. Hoops are still up, but we have been monitoring them and will take them down if needed. Our preserves and open spaces are still open but all parks are closed.

Question: Has anyone had complaints about fishing since they opened the season? What other complaints have you received? What steps are you taking to educate your community?

(Tammy Echevarria) - people were very happy to have another activity

(Kristy Owens) - No issues with fishing

(Alicia Marziani) - no issues so far.

(Megan Prusienski) - we had complaints about folks not wearing masks? but can you really force the public to do so?

(Jhane Kunkel) - I got yelled at about dog poop.

(Erin Long) - People have responded positively to increased social media communication & activity

(Ken Lehr) - 3 weeks ago got a complaint about tennis courts still being open. Last week got a complaint about courts being closed.

(Derek Muller) - Masks are a recommendation, not a requirement per PA

(Kevin Sanders) - Harrisburg City-City Island: Guest not following the social distancing at all. Rangers only issue verbal warnings

(Megan Prusienski) - our mayor made a proclamation about saying thank you to those front line workers and made yesterday appreciation day. folks seemed to like that!

(Debbie) - We actually have considered making our paths "one Way" in the parks so people would not need to leave the path to maintain social distancing.

(Erin) - Upper Dublin just made our walking path one way and it was very well received.

(Megan Prusienski) - we thought of that but share the park with Sellersville so depending on where you enter we weren't positive folks would follow directions

Question: If special events are canceled through May are pools also closed?

(Tyler Walker) - We are evaluating our pools as well, it will follow the same guidance as our general recreation center.

(Debbie) - Plans are to still open the pool especially because the water needs to be treated and circulating

(Dave Hutner) - No final decisions have been made as far as an opening date yet, but at best it will be a delayed opening for our Waterpark

(Dan Russell) - Upper Merion has not made a decision on Pool. Planning on opening but BOS will make the final decision

Question: Is anyone setting a deadline for supervisors to make an official cut off decision on camps?

(Jennifer Bracken Fean) - I think April 30 will tell alot

(Kevin Sanders) - Harrisburg City-June 23rd --- our back up date is July 7 if we have to move back. Onboarding and training is a huge issue for us.

(Keith Kurowski) - The supervisors/council are the ones making the decision to us

(Gina Tophoney) - Lower Merion Twp : No decision from Lower Merion at this time - we are scheduled to open Memorial Day weekend

(Debbie) - BCR announcement just came through that Senior Games is cancelled

(Keith Kurowski) - Just food for thought, the British Open, Tour de France, and Olympics (all scheduled for July or later) have been canceled or postponed...and those folks have big bank accounts

(Kevin Sanders) - Harrisburg City-I have monitored the PIAA website for the last month and PSBA website. Generally, things are presented thru these sites if you dig thru.

(Ryan Griffiths) - Question for next time- How to balance safety and following guidelines, but also knowing the benefits of using and enjoying parks and recreation?

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