



Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response

Frequently Asked Questions – March 25 Update

How long will facilities be closed?

THPRD buildings are closed to the public through April 28 or until further notice.

What buildings are closed?

- **Centers:** Babette Horenstein Tennis Center, Cedar Hills Recreation Center, Conestoga Recreation & Aquatic Center, Elsie Stuhr Center, Garden Home Recreation Center, Tualatin Hills Nature Center, and Tualatin Hills Athletic Center.
- **Pools:** Aloha Swim Center, Beaverton Swim Center, Tualatin Hills Aquatic Center, Harman Swim Center, and Sunset Swim Center.
- **Other:** Administration Office at HMT Complex, Cooper Mountain Nature House, Fanno Creek Service Center, Fanno Farmhouse, and Jenkins Estate.

What else is closed? Are athletic fields, sports courts, or other things open?

In response to Governor Kate Brown's Executive Order No. 20-12 issued on March 23, 2020, **the following amenities at parks are closed effective immediately.**

- All play structures and play equipment
- Basketball courts
- Tennis courts
- Multi-use sports courts
- Bocce courts
- Skate parks
- Athletic fields
- Dog parks
- Picnic shelters
- Outdoor fitness equipment
- Disc golf
- Bike track
- Permanent and portable restrooms
- Progress Lake fishing (not enough space for required social distancing)

Are parks and trails open? What else is open?

Yes. Parks and trails are open. Community gardens are also open, but limited to people with garden plots. Bethany and Commonwealth Lakes are open. **HOWEVER** it is vital that we all follow social distancing rules that are in effect in Oregon. If we don't, it may be necessary to take additional steps to limit park and trail use.

What social distancing rules are in effect?



Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response

Frequently Asked Questions – March 25 Update

We must work together to maximize the space between us in parks and on trails. Groups are limited in size and per the Governor's direction, play dates, and gatherings are banned.

- Keep 6 feet of distance between your immediate household group and other park/trail visitors.
- Wash your hands before and after your visit.
- Limit your group to interacting with your immediate household.
- If you are sick, or experiencing any symptoms: runny nose, cough, sneeze, fever, stay home.
- Avoid touching surfaces.

I've seen 3 feet and 6 feet used for social distancing recommendations. What is right?

Per the Oregon Health Authority website 3/25/2020, (www.oregon.gov/oha) "We're balancing science and practicality. For events larger than 25 people where maintaining 3 feet of social distance is not possible, the Governor is requiring these events be cancelled. While 6 feet is routinely recommended, for example in having a conversation with another person, the science shows 3 feet is sufficient to prevent the spread of a virus in droplet form.

If possible, use the 6 feet rule, but when it is not practical (example: buying something at the grocery store) try to maintain the 3 feet minimum. Social distancing measures reduce opportunities for person-to-person virus transmission and can help delay and slow the spread of the disease, as well as save lives.

What are we allowed to do in parks and on trails?

At this time, the allowed activities are walking, hiking, biking and running in compliance with statewide social distancing rules. The Governor's Executive Order states, "*Individuals may go outside for recreational activities (walking, hiking, etc.), but must limit those activities to non-contact, and are prohibited from engaging in outdoor activities where it is not possible to maintain appropriate social distancing (six feet or more between individuals).*"

Can I throw a ball or toss a frisbee?

Per advice from public health experts, this is not a time for tossing or kicking an object back and forth between us. We need to limit our exposure to touching and sharing objects like balls and frisbees. In announcing the Governor's Executive Order, this very activity was called out as being unwise at this time.

Is it safe to go hiking, walking, biking or running in parks?

It is safe to go with family or immediate household members in small groups. It is important to find ways to get exercise. However, it is critical that everyone is healthy before you go, and that you maintain up to six feet between your group and people you encounter.

Will the closures be extended? How long will this go on?



Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response

Frequently Asked Questions – March 25 Update

We don't know. The building closures are in effect until April 28. The temporary park and trail rules will stay in effect until public health authorities and the state deem it is safe to lift the restrictions.

Will THPRD follow the same closure schedule as the Beaverton School District (BSD)?

THPRD will carefully consider all direction from the Governor, the CDC, and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) in determining when it will be safe to reopen facilities and amenities to the community. Our timelines may continue to match BSD or may differ in the future depending on our operational abilities and needs.

I'm upset about the park and trail limitations. Our kids need to stay active and we need exercise for our physical and mental well-being. Why is THPRD taking these actions?

We understand parks and open space are vital and essential community resources that we all need for our health and wellness. Limiting access to park amenities is the very last thing we want to be doing, however it is a necessary step to save lives.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has flagged mental health as a top concern associated with the COVID-19 outbreak. We recognize social distancing is taking a toll on our community and it is vital that parks help us provide a connection to the outdoors and green space, as well as be a source of much needed physical activity.

We believe that by following the restrictions that are in place, for our health and safety, we can keep our parks open and limit the risk of exposure and spread of the virus.

Why are the permanent restrooms and portable restrooms closed?

The Governor's Executive Order No. 20-12 states, "On-site restrooms must have trash cans, and soap and water or hand sanitizer available." The majority of restrooms in parks and along trails are portable restrooms and do not have sanitizer within them, therefore to comply with the order, we must close access. Due to concerns over limited supplies, vandalism, and theft of supplies, we are locking all permanent restrooms to ensure compliance with the order.

How will THPRD enforce the new Temporary Park Rules?

Park Patrol staff will be enforcing the new temporary rules, but compliance and cooperation from the public is essential as our staff's ability to respond to every violation will be very limited. Park Patrol will be prioritizing responding to the most critical public safety violations they observe and that are reported by calling 971-246-0169. Violators are subject to an exclusion and/or fine.

In addition to THPRD actions, people found in violation of the Governor's Executive Order may be subject to penalties described in ORS 401.990, a Class C misdemeanor, punishable by up to 30 days in jail, a fine of up to \$1,250, or both, if cited by Beaverton Police or Washington County Sheriff's Department officers.

Will I get a credit or refund for classes or programs I've paid for?



Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response

Frequently Asked Questions – March 25 Update

Patrons who registered for programs that required a fee between March 14 and April 28 will receive a credit, per district policy.

I haven't received my refund yet. How long does it take and who do I contact with questions?

We are in the midst of processing all refunds during the closure period. Please be patient with us as we make these account adjustments. We hope to have all refunds returned to the public by mid-April at the latest. If you don't receive your expected refund by April 15, please call (503) 645-6433.

I have a Deluxe, General Pass, or paid an Out-of-District Assessment, how are these impacted by the closure?

For patrons with deluxe or general passes, or who have paid out-of-district assessments, THPRD will extend the life of the pass or the assessment for the amount of time the district is closed. All passes will be automatically extended at the end of the closure period.

My pass expired during the closure and I lost a few days value of my pass. What happens?

Your pass will be extended to reflect the number of days THPRD was closed.

Can I receive a refund for my pass?

At this time, we are focused on extending the passes. If a patron wishes to receive a partial refund, they may contact Sharon Hoffmeister at shoffmei@thprd.org.

What about shelter, fields or facility rentals?

All rentals are cancelled through the closure period and fees will be refunded.

Is THPRD Accepting Financial Aid applications during the closure period?

THPRD will not be processing new requests for financial aid during the closure period. As facilities are closed and there are not programs, classes, or activities for patrons to access, THPRD has temporarily suspended the processing of these applications.

Patrons are still welcome to submit their application to financialaid@thprd.org. Any applications received during the closure period will be processed in the order in which they were received, when the district returns to normal operations.

How do I find out what has events are cancelled?



Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response

Frequently Asked Questions – March 25 Update

The district's website is the best source of information. We are listing all cancelled events at www.thprd.org/district-information/coronavirus-update.

I heard THPRD announced layoffs. Who was laid off and why?

On March 13, 2020, due to the unprecedented global pandemic and the accompanying closure of programs and facilities, THPRD initially placed part-time and seasonal workers in unscheduled status. Based on the information that the closure was to be extended several weeks and to reduce barriers in accessing expanded unemployment insurance, the district made the difficult decision to formally separate these unscheduled employees.

Many of the affected employees serve in positions that are funded by revenues from program fees and classes. Because the district has had to close facilities for the foreseeable future, these funds are not being collected and refunds have been issued for the cancelled activities, meaning there is not funding available to cover staff wages for classes and programs that are not happening.

How is the district supporting impacted employees?

- **Employee Support Group:** THPRD has established an Employee Support Group and will provide staff to respond to inquiries.
- **Expedited Rehiring Process:** Under the temporary policy in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Human Resources will work with hiring managers to expedite the district's typical pre-employment process for these separated employees, as appropriate. Our goal will be to make it as easy as possible for these employees to return to service when we are able to hire staff again.

How can I get the latest information on what is happening at THPRD?

The THPRD website <http://www.thprd.org/district-information/coronavirus-update> is the best source for up-to-date information.

Where can I find resources or information about the virus?

- Centers for Disease Control & Prevention
www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html
- Oregon Health Authority
<http://www.oregon.gov/oha/ph/diseasesconditions/diseasesaz/Pages/emerging-respiratory-infections.aspx>
- Washington County Public Health Department
<https://www.co.washington.or.us/HHS/CommunicableDiseases/COVID-19/index.cfm>



Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response

Frequently Asked Questions – March 25 Update
