Dear El Cerrito Swim Center Patrons,

The City of El Cerrito understands there are concerns about novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The spread of the virus is an emerging, rapidly evolving situation, and City Staff are committed to following the advice set forth by Contra Costa County Health Services, the California Department of Public Health and CDC.

The CDC recommends everyone be prepared for the possibility of a COVID-19 outbreak in their community. The County released a statement yesterday stating that any gatherings or events “where 50 or more people are within arm’s length of each other” be cancelled or postponed. The Recreation Department has taken precautions and cancelled programs and events that are larger than 50 people. At the Swim Center, this includes cancelling or limiting swim meets and limiting Swim Team practice to 50 participants. This guideline is in effect for an initial period of two weeks and will be assessed to determine if adjustments are needed.

As the CDC and County have been saying, the best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to the virus that causes it. Stopping the spread of the virus through everyday practices is the best way to keep people healthy. Current recommendations include:

- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Cover coughs or sneezes with disposable tissue or the crook of an elbow
- Stay home from school or work when you are sick
- Avoid touching your face, eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands
- Use a barrier, such as a paper towel or tissue, to touch commonly touched surfaces, such as bathroom door handles and elevator buttons
- Bump elbows or bow instead of shaking hands
- Regularly clean frequently touched surfaces

While the chlorine and pH levels are kept within legal limits, which sanitizes the water, everyone can do their part to help us maintain a healthy balance is appreciated. We recommend:

- Showering before entering the pool
- Staying away from the pool if you become sick
- Limiting exposure by not handing your credit card or pass to the Aquatic Staff, instead swipe it yourself

The Staff are doing their part too. The locker rooms are cleaned twice a day during the week and once a day on the weekends with all surfaces sanitized and floors mopped. Staff have been asked to clean and disinfect commonly used surfaces such as doorknobs and counters throughout the day.

Recreation Supervisors are diligently monitoring information both locally and nationally to stay apprised of any changes in protocol. We will do our best to keep everyone informed, but the best way to stay up-to-date is to visit the El Cerrito Swim Center, Contra Costa County Health Services, California Department of Public Health, CDC Guidance to Schools and Child Care. If you have any further questions, please contact our offices at 510-559-7000 or recreation@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us.

Thank you,
Beth Frazer
Recreation Supervisor