

# COVID-19 and park closures

By **Debbi Sellers**

As COVID-19 continues to spread, Federal, State and County health officials are expressing increased concern about the number of people who are continuing to congregate together, especially on beaches and in parks. With emphasis on the need for social distancing along with reducing contact with high touch point facilities, some members have closed park facilities as a result. For members who are considering closing play equipment, sports courts, skateparks and other active recreation areas, WCIA recommends the following actions:

1. Determine which park amenities will be closed.
2. Place signage at all equipment and park facilities that are closed for use.
3. Place yellow construction tape or flexible fencing around free-standing amenities such as play equipment.
4. Lock available fences surrounding sports courts that will be closed.
5. Complete frequent inspections of the closed facilities to ensure signage, fencing and/or tape remains in place.
6. Provide notice on the Member's website notifying the public of the closure of park facilities. Include a list of what facilities are closed and what remains open.
7. Provide a time frame for how long the park facilities will remain closed.
8. Provide the name and telephone number citizens can contact with questions or concerns.

WCIA Risk Management staff is here to assist you with any questions or for sample wording on signage.

