



RECenter Members Welcome New Safety Protocols

Change is never easy, and Lee District RECenter manager Joshua Smith wasn't sure how customers would react to the facility's new pandemic-related safety protocols. Lee was among the first three RECenters to reopen in July after a three-month shutdown due to COVID-19, and Smith knew the operational changes would take some getting used to.

"We've been pleasantly surprised at the reactions from members and guests," Smith said appreciatively. "People are glad to be back in the building and we've gotten a lot of good feedback on everything from our enhanced cleaning protocols to our fitness center setup, which allows plenty of space between equipment to assure appropriate social distancing while exercising."

Janet Roberson was among the first RECenter members to visit Lee when it reopened. She says she was impressed with what she saw.

"I was so happy to swim in the pool and see all the wonderful steps taken to assure a safe experience for staff and customers," she said. "The directional signs were very helpful, registration was easy as was check-in, and the facility was spotless."

RECenter reservations are now required at all nine locations to manage fitness room and pool occupancy and assure room for social distancing. Temperature checks are required for all RECenter staff, members and guests before entering the buildings, and everyone is required to wear a mask or face covering when not actively exercising. Directional signs help limit contact with others, and 30-minute intervals between reservations give staff time to disinfect equipment and high-touch surfaces before the next use.

"It's awesome," said Denise Parker of Fairfax during a recent fitness center workout at Oak Marr RECenter. "This is my first time back, and it feels really safe here. Everyone is really diligent about wiping down the machines and doing a wonderful job."

The first-week sentiment was the same at Spring Hill RECenter. Members were impressed with the facility's cleanliness and the 10-foot distances between fitness machines.

"It's overwhelming how clean it is here," said Howard Mortman of McLean. "With all the precautions and directional signs, safe distances and sanitizers, I feel safer here than I do in a grocery store."

"I was wary of coming in at first, but now that I've seen it, I'm very confident about going in," said William Lanier of Vienna. "I do feel safe, and I like these individual disinfectants [bottles] that we can spray on the machines."

Now that all nine RECenters are open again, manager Joshua Smith says RECenter members and staff are getting used to the new "normal."

"Since we've reopened, everyone has been very respectful of one another," he said thoughtfully. "I think the situation has caused us all to be more cautious in our actions and to develop better gym habits in the interest of continued good health for everyone."



RECenter Reservations Made Easy!

Reserve your RECenter workout time online at your convenience.

- Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/recenter
- Select preferred date and time.
- Select preferred ticket – fitness or pool. (Non-members select general admission, rather than ticket.)
- Complete the checkout process.
- Receive an email confirmation.

To make a reservation by phone, call the RECenter of your choice or the Park Authority Registration Office, (703) 222-4664. The office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

