



Dear Avon Lake Resident,

The Ellen Trivanovich Aquatic Center is an Avon Lake attraction that provides summer fun for the Avon Lake community. We look forward each summer for patrons to enjoy the many attractions including the water slides, diving boards, the vortex, the lazy river and to also spend time with family and friends within the facility.

Today, for reasons that are neither your fault nor ours, it is being announced that the Ellen Trivanovich Aquatic Center will not open for the Summer of 2020. With many unknowns about COVID-19 we are currently facing, we have to take precautions that we know can limit the spread of this virus at this moment.

This decision was very difficult to make and one that was made after consulting with our own staff, the heads of our safety forces and health professionals. After carefully reviewing the Governor's guidelines regarding the opening of the pools, compliance is extraordinarily difficult. The safety of our residents and community is our primary concern.

We are one of many communities in Northeast Ohio and across the nation that have made this decision. Again, the health and well-being of our community and staff is our number one priority. While there is no evidence that coronavirus can be spread through the water in pools with aggressive disinfecting and maintenance, the CDC stresses that social distancing and other measures to contain the spread of the virus would be absolutely essential at pools. Under Governor DeWine's guidelines, we would have to severely limit the number of visitors at one time. Enforcing social distancing at an Aquatic Facility would be difficult, if not impossible. The experience would not be the same due to many, if not all, of the features of the pool being closed. It's not realistic to think we could sanitize often enough to confidently stop the spread of the virus with residents coming and going in limited blocks of time. According to the published guidelines, cloth face coverings are recommended but not required, which would make many masked visitors uncomfortable.

We have faced many challenges hiring, retaining and training staff under these conditions. And ultimately, our lifeguards, most of whom are Avon Lake teenagers, could not perform rescues without the potential exposure to COVID-19. Adding the responsibility to enforce social distancing would be unfair and unrealistic. Summer days are often interrupted by thunderstorms which would create a serious problem as patrons could no longer seek shelter in the limited spaces without violating distancing guidelines, which would further complicate an already difficult situation.

Even though the Aquatic Facility will not open this summer, water will remain in the pool to protect the integrity of the recent repairs and renovations that require the floor to be submerged.

We recognize the Ellen Trivanovich Aquatic Center is an attraction that our community looks forward to spending time in during the summer months. Unfortunately, the risks associated with opening the pool are not acceptable during the pandemic. We must remember the health and safety of our community and staff matters most. Thank you for understanding and stay well.

Greg Zilka
Mayor