



March 16, 2020

Dear Families,

As most of you know, the current health emergency has been unfolding by the day. NYC Schools are now closed and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has recommended halting gatherings of more than 50 people. This is a situation most of us never could have imagined.

The cancellation of our recreational programming has been particularly difficult for me. I know how vital fresh-air, exercise, activity, and social stimulation is for children's mental health and physical health, especially during stressful times like the one we are currently facing. And I know that it does not help adults or children to see and feel the beautiful weather.

Nevertheless, during a crisis like the one we are facing now, it is imperative that we all do whatever we can to promote the health and safety of our families, our communities, and our society. In this light, with the need to avoid all unnecessary physical interactions, South Bronx United has cancelled all programming through April 17th. **The Recreational Soccer Program and Global Youth League will resume no sooner than April 18th. It is likely that the program start will be pushed back further.** You will see further updates from us via email and social media.

As individuals, we must also remember that we can make a difference by taking appropriate steps. Most importantly, health officials are asking everyone to stay home and avoid unnecessary interactions as much as possible regardless of your personal health. Make sure that you and your children wash hands regularly. If you are sick, contact your doctor to let them know your symptoms. If you need help getting medical care, call 311. NYC has committed to provide medical care regardless of immigration status or ability to pay.

For Recreational Program registrants, we anticipate that questions will inevitably arise regarding refunds on the season registration fee. At this time, we cannot provide more information on how this will be handled as it depends on when and if the season resumes.

South Bronx United's office will also be closed during this period. However, staff will be working remotely. We will continue to be available on our office phone number and by email to address any questions or concerns. I would like to stress that we are here to help all of our families and community members and provide whatever assistance we can, including referrals to appropriate agencies when there is informational or help you are looking for. South Bronx United employs a staff that includes a social worker, mental health counselor, and immigration services manager, as well as many other staff members who devote their careers to supporting this community.

I hope that all of you, your children, your families, and your neighborhoods stay healthy during this time. If you need it, please know that all public schools are providing daily to-go breakfast and lunch from 7:30 am - 1pm. Again, if you have any questions or concerns, or if there is anything we can help you with, please contact us by calling the SBU Office at (718) 404-9281 or emailing [info@southbronxunited.org](mailto:info@southbronxunited.org). We cannot wait to see everyone once circumstances improve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew So'.

Andrew So  
Executive Director  
South Bronx United