



June 15, 2020

Dear Willoughby Resident:

After many discussions with our staff, health professionals, community members and carefully reviewing state guidelines regarding the opening of pools, we made the difficult decision that the Willoughby Municipal pools will remain closed this summer because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We understand how important our pools are to the community and how disappointing this decision will be to the many people who enjoy them each summer; however, the health and well-being of our community and staff is our main priority.

We discussed several scenarios to open one or both of our pools, but the challenges of meeting health department guidelines, and the costs of these requirements make them difficult.

Practicing social distancing would be difficult, and requirements for cleaning and disinfecting our facilities would limit our hours of operation. Increased sanitation rules would require staff to wipe surface and bathrooms almost hourly, and there is a concern of potential virus exposure to our lifeguards. According to state guidelines, we would have to limit the number of visitors at one time. Additionally, the number of visitors permitted in the water must be significantly reduced to achieve the proper level of social distancing and requires additional monitoring.

Finally, in addition to the safety and staffing considerations, we must consider the financial impact of opening the pools during a time of decreasing revenues.

We look forward to the time when we can gather safely and enjoy the many amenities our city has to offer. Thank you for your understanding and support.

Sincerely,

Mayor Robert Fiala