



# MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT

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## **Desert Recreation District Serving the Coachella Valley** *In-Person Distance Learning Programs for Kids, COVID-19 Testing, Food Distributions, Online Fitness Activities and More gives Residents Support during Pandemic*

Indio, CA (August 12, 2020) – Desert Recreation District (DRD) is supporting Coachella Valley families in a variety of important ways during these unprecedented times. One of the most sought-after needs being met by DRD is a full day, in-person distance learning program for children in kindergarten through fifth or sixth grade (varies by school district). With locations in Bermuda Dunes, Indio, Indio Hills, La Quinta, Mecca, North Shore, Palm Desert, Thermal and Thousand Palms, parents across the mid and east valley have an option to enroll by the week or three-week session, with the program starting in the first location (Thousand Palms) on August 17. Social distancing and face coverings for those in second grade and above are some of the preventative measures in place for these locations.



DRD has also partnered with other agencies to host additional key services, such as COVID-19 testing in Palm Desert thanks to an arrangement with Borrego Health. The testing will take place from 6:30 – 9:30 a.m. on August 20, and September 3 and 17. Appointments are necessary and can be made by calling 833-624-1097. Testing is covered by most insurances, and programs are available for the uninsured or underinsured.



Another vital service offered, this one thanks to a collaboration between FIND Food Bank and DRD, is the Rapid Response Food Distributions taking place at several DRD facilities beginning at 1:30 p.m. until all food is given out. Locations include the Indio Community Center on Tuesday afternoons, Pawley Pool Family Aquatic Center on Wednesday afternoons, and Palm Desert Community Center on Thursday afternoons. In addition to the usual distribution in La Quinta on the fourth Saturday of the month, there is also a morning distribution at the La Quinta Community Fitness Center & Park beginning at 8:30 a.m. on the first and third Friday of the month for those 65+ years of age (proof of age is required for this location).

Additionally, physical and mental health activities and programs are being offered virtually by Desert Recreation District, with many of them at no charge for the first month or longer as DRD recognizes that providing these services is also a critical need in the Valley. Morning Stretch and Fit After 50 classes for adults, Endzone Football Training, Hang Time with Thaddis Basketball Demos and Inline Skating for those who love being active, Beginning Ballet, Arts & Crafts and Preschool Story-time for the kids, and even Yoga for Dogs can all be found at [MyRecreationDistrict.com/online-resources](http://MyRecreationDistrict.com/online-resources), along with other programs.

### About Desert Recreation District

***Desert Recreation District (DRD) is the largest park and recreation district in California, covering over 1,800 square miles and serving more than 385,000 residents throughout the greater Coachella Valley DRD manages, maintains and assists in maintaining over 30 parks and recreation facilities; creates and delivers quality programs, services and classes; and, facilitates leisure opportunities through partnerships – this community collaborative approach allows us to provide barrier-free and safe recreational activities. DRD strives to ensure the public receives personal benefits such as physical fitness, relaxation and revitalization; social benefits in the form of stronger and healthier families and enriching the lives for persons with disabilities, and economic benefits through more productive and healthier citizens and increased tourism.***

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