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Date: May 29, 2020
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**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CITY CLOSES HUTCHINSON FAMILY AQUATIC CENTER

Due to the health and safety challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Hutchinson will close the Hutchinson Family Aquatic Center for the 2020 season.

“We evaluated safety measures for staff and patrons, as well as reviewed current executive orders and public health guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health and the CDC. We ultimately came to the conclusion that there isn’t a manageable way to operate the Aquatic Center,” said Parks & Recreation Director Dolf Moon. “This pandemic has made it especially challenging to navigate decisions surrounding the operations of an Aquatic Center.”

The Aquatic Center does not allow for the proper social distancing and predictable use needed to ensure staff and patron safety. The uncertainty of opening dates, limited capacity, training staff, staff availability, liability factors, and the need for ongoing sanitation and disinfection were also key factors in the decision. The City plans to reopen the Hutchinson Family Aquatic Center in 2021.

#End#