

GREAT EXPLORATIONS CHILDREN’S MUSEUM’S COVID-19 ACTION PLAN

Prepared by:

COVID-19 Health and Safety Supervisor – COO, [Alan Kahle](#)

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GREAT EXPLORATIONS STATEMENT REGARDING HEALTH & SAFETY:

Great Explorations Children’s Museum considers the well-being of our families, staff, and community fundamental. Museum leadership has and will continue to follow the CDC, Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County Child Care License Board, and other health agency recommendations for best practices and protocols to minimize risks to guests and staff. As a children’s museum, we recognize that how children play and learn in our hands-on environment differentiates us from other museums. We adhere to industry standards for museums, specifically children’s museums, as outlined by the Association of Children’s Museums. As we continue to monitor the situation and stay current with information from federal and local health departments we will keep the public and our stakeholders informed of any changes that impact the Museum.

Great Explorations will continue to monitor the CDC and the Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County for guidance in making decisions for the health and welfare of our guests, staff, and community. For more information please contact Chief Operations Officer Alan Kahle at akahle@greatex.org.

Every effort is made to keep this document up-to-date. However, in order for us to remain flexible and responsive, please be aware that the procedures detailed in this document are subject to change without notice.

GREAT EXPLORATIONS REOPENING PLAN*

PHASE 1:

Preschool will reopen at reduced capacity on May 18, 2020. We will adhere to or exceed all requirements set forth by the Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County Child Care License Board.

Summer Camp will open at reduced capacity on June 2, 2020. We will adhere to or exceed all requirements set forth by the Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County Child Care License Board.

PHASE 2:

As of May 31, 2020, private rentals will be available on weekends.

As of July 1, 2020, we will open additional spots in preschool on a limited basis and in accordance with guidelines from the Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County Child Care License Board.

Please note:

- Preschool and Camp hours will remain at 8 am-4:30pm until further notice.
- Except for the change in classroom ratios, all protocols as detailed in the Great Explorations COVID-19 Action Plan will remain in effect.

PHASE 3:

As of June 22, remote staff will begin moving back to work onsite

June 29-July 3, the museum will be open to members for timed, limited capacity sessions outside of camp and preschool hours.

July 6, the museum will be open to the public for timed, limited capacity sessions outside of camp and preschool hours.

As of August 31, 2020, operating hours for Preschool will be 7:30 am-5:30 pm. Operating hours for School-Age programs will remain at 8 am-4:30 pm. *Please see specific protocols for those programs in this document for updates.

PHASE 4:

As of September 21, the museum will open to the public for a 2.5-hour play session while preschool and school-age programs are not scheduled for gallery time.

**All current and future plans for re-opening are subject to change and are in accordance with the guidelines and recommendations of national, state, and local health authorities.*

Phase 5:

As of October 12th, Great Explorations Children's Museum will open to the public from 10:30 to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Saturday and Sunday will remain the same until further notice.

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GENERAL HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURES

CLEANING & SANITIZATION:

- The museum's classrooms, exhibits, general areas, and work areas will be thoroughly cleaned, sanitized, and disinfected every evening by the museum's professional janitorial team using products, including industrial foggers, that meet or exceed all OSHA and CDC guidelines related to COVID-19 and other pathogens.
- Surfaces and frequently handled materials will be cleaned continuously throughout the day.
- Items throughout the museum's exhibits, classrooms, general spaces, and workspaces have been assessed for potential exposure risk and items in question, including toys, props, costumes, and other interactives, have been modified or removed to lessen the risk of spreading germs.
- The staff has undergone additional training related to the spread of COVID-19 and the measures we are taking to avoid it.

SCREENING:

- Staff, guests, and anyone else, including children, admitted into the building will undergo a health screening that includes questions and a touch-free temperature screening before they come into the building.
- We encourage staff and guests to stay home if they don't feel well.
- The museum reserves the right to refuse entry to anyone exhibiting COVID-19 or flu-like symptoms or with a temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher.

HYGIENE:

- Acrylic shields are placed between staff and guests during screening and admission processes.
- Face coverings should cover the nose and mouth. Face coverings should NOT be worn by children under the age of 2 or anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the covering without assistance. Cloth face coverings will be provided for Staff. The museum will have limited disposable face coverings available for Guests.
 - Staff must wear face coverings in the building unless they are eating or drinking.
 - Guests and campers over the age of 5 are required to wear face coverings.
- Frequent and proper handwashing is encouraged. Instructions for hand washing are prominently displayed.
- Alcohol-based hand sanitizer is available to staff and guests throughout the museum.

SOCIAL DISTANCING:

- The number of students, campers, and staff allowed in our classrooms is consistent with the guidelines put forth by the Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County Child Care License Board and all current executive orders, ordinances, and mandates.
- The number of people allowed in the museum allows for more than an adequate distance between people and is consistent with current guidelines set forth by the CDC, the Florida Department of Health, and local authorities.
- Signage promoting proper face-covering wearing, respiratory etiquette, hand washing, and social distancing is prominently displayed throughout the museum.
- Great Explorations follows the Florida Department of Health guidelines for reporting cases of COVID-19 and will adhere to or exceed actions recommended by Epidemiology or other health agencies to prevent and reduce the spread of COVID-19.
 - This may include temporary closure of specific areas, programs, or of the facility itself.

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- Every effort will be made to communicate any closures to relevant parties via email, social media, pre-recorded notices for incoming calls, and signage.

The specific health and safety measures for individual programs can be found below.

PROGRAM PROTOCOLS

Preschool and School-Age Programs:

On August 12, Preschool began the 2020-2021 school year with 2 teachers per classroom in 5 classrooms for ages 2-VPK.

On August 10, we extended school-age Summer Camps by 2 weeks to accommodate the delay of the start of the school year. We moved campers into 2 classrooms.

On August 24, our School-Age program opened an e-learning support camp. A maximum of 10 students with 2 teachers per classroom in grades K-5th will be onsite at Great Ex receiving academic, social, and organizational support while e-learning.

- **Check-in** will be located inside the “side” door of the building.
 - ◆ **Preschool and School-Age check-in** will be conducted at the same table.
 - ◆ Adults and children ages 5 and up will be asked to wear a face-covering upon entry to the building.
 - ◆ Guardians will park their cars in the lot and walk their children to the check-in line. When it is their turn the child will have their temperature checked and the guardians will answer health screening questions. When approved for admission, the guardians’ temperature will be scanned and they will follow staff directions to escort their children to sign in at the appropriate classrooms. We request that whenever possible, guardians drop children at the door to the classroom and exit quickly. Children will wash their hands immediately upon arriving in the classroom.
- Face coverings are required for:
 - All staff while they are in the building.
 - Children in our School-age programs (ages 5 and up) when in the building and/or when social distancing is not possible.
- Face coverings will be encouraged and supported for children age 3 and up when in the building and/or when social distancing is not possible. Masks are never appropriate for children under the age of 2.
- **Class ratios** are in adherence to the guidelines of the Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County Child Care License Board.
- Surfaces, toys, and other objects in the classrooms will be cleaned by teachers throughout the day.
- **Classrooms and all general spaces** will be cleaned by our professional janitorial crew each night.
- Napping, mealtime, and other activities will be designed to promote social distance.
 - Cots placed at least 6 feet apart and students will lie down head to toe.
- Each class/group will be in the same room with the same teachers each day. Shared spaces will be cleaned and sanitized in between groups. Please note that several class groups may share time, but not space, on the museum floor.

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- The number of different people allowed in preschool and school-age spaces will be limited to those essential for the operation of the programs. This may include substitutes from a small selection of trained and approved administrative staff in the case of teacher absences. Office staff will remain in the office with face coverings whenever possible during preschool and school-age program hours.
- Frequent and proper handwashing will be required.
- Personal items will be limited.
- There is a designated room to isolate anyone who begins showing symptoms during the day until they can be picked up.
- **Pick-up and check-out**
 - ◆ **Preschool and School-Age guardians should enter through the side door.**
 - ◆ Guardians will park their cars in the lot and walk to the line to have their temperature screened. Once approved to enter, guardians should follow staff directions to proceed to the appropriate classrooms to sign their children out for the day and exit the building.
 - ◆ Please note that as of August 31, 2020, Great Explorations may be open to the general public at the time of pick-up. Please comply with all staff directions in our efforts to keep everyone separate and safe.

For more information please contact [Lael Arango](#).

Private Rentals:

- A maximum of 100 guests and 5 staff members will be permitted in the museum at one time (this includes individuals and groups or a combination thereof).
- Face coverings are required for:
 - Staff
 - Guests over the age of 5. Face coverings are not appropriate for children under the age of 2.
- Staff and guests will be asked health questions and screened for body temperature before being allowed into the museum.
- Anyone with flu-like symptoms or that appears to have symptoms and/or registers a temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher may be refused entrance to the museum. We reserve the right to deny any guest and staff entrance into the museum at any time for any reason we deem related to general safety and/or COVID-19.
- Sanitizer will be offered to all guests before they enter the gallery.
- Guests will be asked to store their belongings in a designated area.
- The museum will clean surfaces, exhibits, and props throughout the time of the rental.
- Bins for dirty toys will be placed throughout the museum.
- The museum will clean and sanitize surfaces, exhibits, and props between rental sessions when there are no guests present.
- The museum will be sanitized every evening using our regular products as well as industrial foggers.

For more information please contact [Chel Personius](#).

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Timed admissions:

- Tickets for timed sessions are available online for advance purchase. Advance purchase is encouraged.
- Cash will not be accepted for sales that take place at the museum.
- The number of people allowed in the building (guests and staff) will be in accordance with guidelines set forth by the CDC, the Florida Department of Health in Pinellas, and local authorities and will allow for social distancing.
- Face coverings are required for:
 - Staff
 - Guests over the age of 5. Face coverings are not appropriate for children under the age of 2.
- Staff and guests will be asked health questions and screened for body temperature prior to being allowed into the museum.
- Anyone with flu-like symptoms or that appears to have symptoms and/or registers a temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher may be refused entrance to the museum. We reserve the right to deny any guest and staff entrance into the museum at any time for any reason we deem related to general safety and/or COVID-19.
- Sanitizer will be offered to all guests before they enter the gallery.
- All guests are asked to wash or sanitize their hands immediately upon entry and frequently throughout their visit. Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the museum.
- Guests will be asked to store their belongings in a designated area.
- Social distancing will be facilitated and encouraged through signage and the arrangement of play spaces.
- Certain exhibit components may be modified to reduce contact and allow for social distancing.
- The museum staff will clean surfaces, exhibits, and props throughout the session.
- Bins for dirty toys will be placed throughout the museum.
- The museum will clean and sanitize surfaces, exhibits, and props between timed sessions, when there are no guests present.
- The museum will be sanitized every evening using our regular products as well as industrial foggers.

For more information about safety and operations, click [here](#) to contact us.

For more ticketing information, contact [Chel Personius](#).

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