

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

*Prepared by:*

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

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Health and Safety Statement .....</b>	<b>Page 1</b>
<b>Phased Reopening Plan .....</b>	<b>Page 2</b>
<b>General Health and Safety Measures .....</b>	<b>Page 3-4</b>
<b>Program Protocols</b>	
<b>Preschool and School-Age Programs .....</b>	<b>Page 4-5</b>
<b>Private Rentals .....</b>	<b>Page 5</b>

## 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](mailto: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 12<sup>th</sup>, 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.

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.

**Phase 6:**

As of Monday May,10 2021, Great Explorations will no longer require temperature checks to enter the building. Masks are still **strongly recommended** for our public guests.

For staff, we would like for everyone to wear a mask while public-facing. Great Explorations **strongly recommends** you wear your mask as continued protection to yourself.

As an organization, we encourage you to continue to social distance and practice self-care with frequent hand washing. This is for your safety and the safety of those around you.

**STATE OF FLORIDA OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR:**

May/3/2021

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 21-102

(Suspending All Remaining Local Government Mandates and Restrictions Based on the COVID-19 State of Emergency)

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RON DESANTIS, as Governor of Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in me by Article IV, Section I (a) of the Florida Constitution and by the Florida Emergency Management Act, as amended, and all other applicable laws, promulgate the following Executive Order:

Section 1. In order to mitigate the adverse and unintended consequences of the COVID19 emergency and to accelerate the State's recovery, all local COVID-19 restrictions and mandates on individuals and businesses are hereby suspended.

Section 2. This order eliminates and supersedes any existing emergency order or ordinance issued by a county or municipality that imposes restrictions or mandates upon businesses or individuals due to the COVID-19 emergency.

**CDC Update:**

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.

CDC clarification as of January 1st, 2021 all workers should wear face masks unless respirators are required.

**CDC Update:**

CDC recommends that in Phase 1b and Phase 1c, which may overlap, vaccination should be offered to people in the following groups. 2021

**CDC Update:**

Frontline essential workers such as fire fighters, police officers, corrections officers, food and agricultural workers, United States Postal Service workers, manufacturing workers, grocery store workers, public transit workers, and those who work in the educational sector (teachers, support staff, and daycare workers.)

People aged 75 years and older because they are at high risk of hospitalization, illness, and death from COVID-19. People aged 75 years and older who are also residents of long-term care facilities should be offered vaccination in Phase 1a.

**CDC Update:**

People aged 65—74 years because they are at high risk of hospitalization, illness, and death from COVID-19. People aged 65—74 years who are also residents of long-term care facilities should be offered vaccination in Phase 1a.

People aged 16—64 years with underlying medical conditions which increase the risk of serious, life-threatening complications from COVID-19.

Other essential workers, such as people who work in transportation and logistics, food service, housing construction and finance, information technology, communications, energy, law, media, public safety, and public health.

As vaccine availability increases, vaccination recommendations will expand to include more groups

The goal is for everyone to be able to easily get a COVID-19 vaccination as soon as large enough quantities of vaccine are available. As vaccine supply increases but remains limited, ACIP will expand the groups recommended for vaccination.

**CDC Update:**

As of February 20, 2021, Great Explorations Children's Museum will open to the public from 10:30 to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Saturday will open to the public from 10:30 to 4 p.m. and Sunday will open from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

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.

**CDC Update:**

What You Can Start to Do If you've been fully vaccinated:

- You can gather indoors with fully vaccinated people without wearing a mask or staying 6 feet apart.
- You can gather indoors with unvaccinated people of any age from one other household (for example, visiting with relatives who all live together) without masks or staying 6 feet apart, unless any of those people or anyone they live with has an increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.
- You can gather or conduct activities outdoors **without** wearing a mask except in certain crowded settings and venues.
- If you travel in the United States, you do not need to get tested before or after travel or self-quarantine after travel.
- You need to pay close attention to the situation at your international destination before traveling outside the United States.
  - You do NOT need to get tested **before** leaving the United States unless your destination requires it.
  - You still need to show a negative test result or documentation of recovery from COVID-19 **before** boarding an international flight to the United States.
  - You should still get tested 3-5 days **after** international travel.
  - You do NOT need to self-quarantine **after** arriving in the United States.
- If you've been around someone who has COVID-19, you do not need to stay away from others or get tested unless you have symptoms.
  - However, if you live in a group setting (like a correctional or detention facility or group home) and are around someone who has COVID-19, you should still stay away from others for 14 days and get tested, even if you don't have symptoms.

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.

## 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 and 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 the temporary closure of specific areas, programs, or of the facility itself.

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.

- 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-5<sup>th</sup> 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 sanitized 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.

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.

- 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, on the museum floor.
- 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 lobby doors.**
  - ◆ 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.

#### **Private Rentals:**

- A maximum of 150 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 about safety and operations, click [here](#) to contact us.

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.