



March 13, 2020

Coronavirus Statement

Connecticut Science Center suspends operation in wake of public health threat

Beginning Saturday, March 14, the Connecticut Science Center will be CLOSED to the public due to public health concerns about COVID-19 and will reassess conditions and update our plans by March 28, 2020.

The following statement is from Connecticut Science Center President & CEO, Matt Fleury:

Dear Connecticut Science Center Community,

We are a science learning institution that exists to inspire our society to act in a science-minded way. When science tells us something, we must not ignore it. The best available scientific and medical information strongly indicates that reducing social transmission is the best way to mitigate the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak.

The Connecticut Science Center will do what the science implies and close our doors to the public on a temporary basis to reduce the potential of transmission in large public gatherings and hands-on environments such as ours inherently is when filled with visitors. This closure will take effect starting Saturday, March 14, and will last for a minimum of 2 weeks, pending additional information and advice from health officials. This closing will apply to all services, including the postponement of Community Day March 14, and all Science Center-organized operating hours, programs and events. Our offices will continue to operate during this 2-week closure and staff will be deployed to important projects and assignments.

We make this decision with heavy hearts but clear minds. Our driving mission and instinct is to talk about science and everything that our society can learn from it in the unique and powerful venue that we operate. At the same time, we are unwavering in our resolve to do what's in the best interests of our community, which is situated among some of the largest population centers, and where health experts are predicting more widespread transmission. In part, they hope to achieve that by minimizing gatherings of more than 200, which is much less than a routine day at the Connecticut Science Center.

We are already adapting our special content for schools and families to online formats that will be valuable during the COVID-19 related disruptions to school and family life. We will be innovating relentlessly to deliver on our mission, no matter what, and to make the Science Center even better than ever when the doors re-open.

We will reassess our plans as the situation develops and conditions are clarified. Meantime, we once again urge everyone to wash hands thoroughly and often, avoid coughing and sneezing around others and maintain social distancing and other practices recommended by health authorities.

For more information and resources about COVID19 and preparing for a pandemic, please visit:

<https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Public-Health-Preparedness/Main-Page/2019-Novel-Coronavirus>
www.ct.gov/ctfluwatch

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About the Connecticut Science Center: The LEED-Gold certified Connecticut Science Center, located in downtown Hartford, sparks creative imagination and an appreciation for science by immersing visitors in fun and educational hands-on, minds-on interactive experiences while maintaining an environmentally conscious presence. Serving more than 3.25 million people since opening in 2009, the Science Center features more than 165 exhibits in ten galleries. Covering a range of topics, including space and earth sciences, physical sciences, biology, the Connecticut River watershed, alternative energy sources, Connecticut inventors and innovations, a children's gallery, and much more. Other features include the state's only year-round butterfly habitat, five educational labs, a 200-seat 3D digital theater, function room, gift store, and ongoing events for all ages.

The Science Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing science education throughout the state of Connecticut and New England, providing learning opportunities for students and adults of all ages, and engaging the community in scientific exploration. The Connecticut Science Center is also the home to the **Joyce D. and Andrew J. Mandell Academy for Teachers**, offering powerful Professional Development for educators.

More information: CTScienceCenter.org or (860) SCIENCE.

CONTACT: Tracy Shirer
Connecticut Science Center
(860) 520-2116, (860) 817-1373
tshirer@ctsciencecenter.org

Frequently Asked Questions:

Why is the Connecticut Science Center closing?

The Connecticut Science Center believes in acting on the best information science gives us. Social distancing is recommended by public health officials and experts to slow the spread of COVID-19, and that is best achieved by avoiding large gatherings. In the interests of supporting a national effort to combat COVID-19, the Connecticut Science Center is closed to the public and will update our plans by March 28, 2020.

Has there been a case of COVID-19 at the Connecticut Science Center?

There have been no reported or confirmed cases of COVID-19 at Connecticut Science Center including guests, employees, and vendors.

When will the Connecticut Science Center reopen?

We will be closed at least until March 28, 2020. At that time, we will announce our plans based on current information. For special events from March 28 and after, we will update you as soon as we have additional information. Our April Exploration Camps are continuing as scheduled at this time.

If you have questions, please contact info@ctsciencecenter.org

Where can I find official information about the Coronavirus?

For more information and resources about CoVID19 and preparing for a pandemic, please visit:

<https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Public-Health-Preparedness/Main-Page/2019-Novel-Coronavirus>
www.ct.gov/ctfluwatch