



March 4, 2020

COVID-19/Coronavirus Statement

Connecticut Science Center prepares in light of public health concerns

The following statement is from Connecticut Science Center President and CEO, Matt Fleury concerning the COVID-19 (Coronavirus).

Background

Health authorities are monitoring the spread of the COVID-19/Coronavirus. While the impact on Connecticut is uncertain at this time, health officials are preparing, starting with recommendations to avoid or contain the spread of communicable diseases.

Statement

“As the State of Connecticut continues to coordinate prevention efforts and organizes a readiness plan for the potential of COVID-19 cases in our community, the Connecticut Science Center is monitoring the situation closely. We are ramping up facility cleaning and disinfecting procedures, adding cleaning and sanitizing resources for our staff and visitors, and sharing information and best practices from a science perspective. We urge everyone concerned about COVID-19 to start by practicing the basic techniques recommended by health officials: wash hands thoroughly and often, clean and disinfect shared surfaces, sneeze or cough into tissues, stay home if you’re sick, and “throw the bow” instead of shaking hands, especially if you’re not feeling well.”

For more information and resources about COVID-19 and preparations, please visit:

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

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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.

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Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Science Center doing to prevent the spread of germs?

The Science Center strives to maintain a clean facility and consistently receives high marks from our guests for the cleanliness of our exhibit spaces and restrooms. Our Health and Safety team frequently meets to review our cleaning protocols.

In the wake of the public health concerns around COVID-19 (Coronavirus), we have augmented cleaning protocols with a specific focus on areas and surfaces with frequent guest contact. Our “Clean Team” has been trained on best practices for preventing the spread of germs and viruses. In addition, our employees engage in frequent hand washing and encourage guests to do so as well.

As education is key, you’ll find educational posters in our restrooms and galleries as well as fun, interactive public presentations that inform kids (and adults!) about proper handwashing practices recommended by experts.

Does the Connecticut Science Center provide hand sanitizer for guests?

The Connecticut Science Center provides hand sanitizer dispensers on every floor as a convenience for our guests. Sanitizers are filled with the recommended germ-killing products. While hand sanitizer is an accepted germ-cleaning method, health officials strongly encourage handwashing with soap and water as is the most effective way to limit the spread of germs. Restrooms are plentiful and conveniently located on every floor and in every exhibition gallery.

What can I do to prevent the spread of germs and viruses?

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- If you have flu-like symptoms, stay home

Where can I find official information about the Coronavirus?

For more information and resources about COVID-19 and preparations, please visit:

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