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## ZSM EDUCATION PROGRAMS | COVID-19 OPERATING PLAN

The Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM) conducts a variety of education programs, including Zoo Camps, Zoo Classes and School Programs. All of our programs are reimagined to ensure an engaging and safe experience for all.

The purpose of this document is to inform you of the COVID-19 safety policies, best practices, operation details and response plans that we are adhering to for in-person programs. These plans are based on guidance from public health officials, recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the American Camp Association (ACA). More information will be added to our website as it comes available or changes in alignment with CDC and/or Milwaukee County recommendations.

You and your child(ren) or student(s) also play a role in protecting not only yourselves, but everyone else joining our programs. All staff and participants are required to follow the policies and best practices outlined in this document.

If you have questions about the program you will be joining, please contact the Zoological Society of Milwaukee at 414-258-5058 or [education@zoosociety.org](mailto:education@zoosociety.org).

### SECTION 1: POLICIES & BEST PRACTICES

#### Masks

The Zoological Society of Milwaukee follows the Milwaukee County Universal Face Mask Policy and Procedure Administrative Order. All staff and participants ages 3 and up are required to wear well-fitted masks in all indoor spaces throughout the Zoo. Although Milwaukee County does not require masks to be worn in outdoor spaces when physical distancing is maintained, we will continue to ask our participants to keep their masks on throughout the program. We will be lenient in outdoor spaces when physical distancing is ensured and allow participants to take mask breaks. Masks will also be removed while eating or drinking, as applicable. For more details regarding the expectations for entering Milwaukee County grounds, please view the mask on [county.milwaukee.gov](http://county.milwaukee.gov) for more information. Recent evidence suggests that cloth face masks are less effective against the Omicron variant. We highly recommend surgical masks for all visitors.

We recommend sending an extra mask with your child(ren) or student(s), in case it becomes soiled or wet throughout the program.

#### Vaccination

In accordance with the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's commitments to providing a safe workplace and education space that is free of known hazards and prioritizes the health and safety of our employees, our contractors, our families and our visitors, and the community at large, the Society has adopted a COVID-19 Vaccination Policy. Absent an approved exemption, all employees



are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. There is no vaccination requirement for visitors.

### **Daily Health Assessments**

All participants will complete a verbal health assessment prior to attending their program. All staff are also required to complete a health assessment prior to reporting to work.

#### *Zoo Camps or Classes*

All participants will complete a verbal health questionnaire upon arrival. We ask that you stay home if anyone in your household is feeling unwell with symptoms similar to COVID-19 or has been in contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 10 days. We will process a credit for classes or camps missed due to these circumstances. For more information regarding daily health assessments, see the Program Operation Details section.

#### *School Programs*

Teachers will be sent a health assessment for completion prior to arriving at the Zoo. We ask that you complete the health assessment with your students and chaperones prior to boarding the bus. Once you arrive at our building, our educators will confirm with you that all students and chaperones are aligned with the given health assessment.

We ask that any student or chaperone stay home if they are feeling unwell with symptoms similar to COVID-19 or have been in contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 10 days. For more information regarding daily health assessments, see the Program Operation Details section.

### **Physical Distancing**

Class sizes have been reduced to allow for appropriate physical distancing. We ask that all participants adhere to physical distancing guidelines throughout the program.

### **Best Practices**

#### **Hand Washing & Sanitizing**

Hand washing and sanitizing will be available to all participants throughout the program. We encourage you to speak to your child(ren) or student(s) about frequent hand washing, sanitizing and other preventive practices.

#### **Participant Flow**

Check-in and check-out procedures are altered to allow for more regulated participant flow. Staff will communicate among education cohorts to avoid congestion in any indoor and outdoor spaces. Groups of children will remain in their camp or class cohort, and will not use the same indoor spaces at the same time.

#### **Increased Outdoor Time**

Class and camp activities will be held outdoors as much as possible during warmer seasons. We will explore the Zoo, spend time in the private backyard of the Conservation Education Building or private Nature Play site (no public access). During the winter months, be prepared to spend more time inside our classrooms or in Zoo buildings. Nevertheless, please always dress for the weather as each program has time in the outdoors!

## **SECTION 2: PROGRAM OPERATION DETAILS**

### **COVID-19 POLICY ENFORCEMENT**

To comply with local regulations and ensure our ability to remain open and offer education programming to our community, we will be enforcing our policies.

- If you, your child(ren) or student(s) intentionally disregard our COVID-19 policies, you will be asked to leave our program(s).
- We understand that young children may have issues keeping their mask on. We will give reminders and grace to be supportive. However, if they are unable to stay masked, we will ask you and/or your child(ren) or student(s) to leave our program(s).

### **CLEANING & DISINFECTING**

- High-touch areas indoors will be cleaned and disinfected to mitigate potential surface spread. Classrooms will also be cleaned and disinfected between cohort groups.
- Each classroom has a checklist of cleaning procedures that will be followed.
- Supplies and equipment used by participants will be cleaned and disinfected in between uses.

### **PROGRAM ACTIVITIES**

- Activities will be modified to no longer include direct touching or proximity of participants.
- We are limiting food-related activities.
- During any semi-structured free time, participants may play non-contact games led by instructors or can engage in individual quiet-time.

### **SUPPLIES**

- Shared supplies or equipment will be minimized as much as possible.
- If using shared supplies or equipment, items will be cleaned and disinfected between uses.
- Supplies may be provided to participants through individual supply “kits” and used at individual stations. For example, an individual’s kit could contain markers, pencil, scissors, glue stick, and needed supplies for their camp day activities and art learning projects.

### **SNACK & LUNCH**

- Participants must provide their own snack and water bottle. If joining a day or weeklong camp, participants must also pack a cold lunch.
- We ask that guardians refrain from packing snacks or lunches containing peanuts or tree nuts to be respectful of allergies.
- Participants will wash or sanitize their hands before and after eating.
- Snack and/or lunchtime will take place in an outdoor space (weather permitting) and physical distancing will be maintained.

### **CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT**

- Check-in and check-out procedures are modified to allow for regulated participant flow.
- When you approach the Conservation Education building, look for signage that indicates the location of your program. Thereafter, please line up physically distanced at the designated space for both check-in and check-out, as applicable.
  - For Zoo Camps and Classes, we encourage families to limit the number of people picking up or dropping off a child.

## DAILY HEALTH ASSESSMENT

### *Zoo Camps or Classes*

During check-in and before partaking in our programs, participants will complete a verbal health assessment.

All participants will be asked the below questions before entering the classroom. If a participant answers "Yes" to any question, they will not be allowed into the classroom for camp or class. A reimbursement credit will be issued for the participant to come on another day. Note: These questions are subject to change.

- 1) Are you currently experiencing any symptoms similar to COVID-19 such as a fever (temperature of 100.4°F or higher), cough, chills, shortness of breath, a sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell?
- 2) Have you or anyone in your household tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 10 days?
- 3) Have you been in close contact with an infected person within the last 10 days?

**Note: By participating in our programs, we reserve the right to take a contactless temperature of a participant if they are exhibiting symptoms of fever.**

### *School Programs*

Teachers are sent the below health assessment questions 5-7 days before their program. We ask that you complete the health assessment with your students and chaperones prior to boarding the bus. Once you arrive at our building, our educators will confirm with you that all students and chaperones are aligned with the given health assessment.

Please ask your students and chaperones the below questions. If a student or chaperone answers "Yes" to any of the questions, they should not join the class on the field trip and are not able to participate in our program. Note: These questions are subject to change.

- 1) Are you currently experiencing any symptoms similar to COVID-19 such as a fever (temperature of 100.4°F or higher), cough, chills, shortness of breath, a sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell?
- 2) Have you or anyone in your household tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 10 days?
- 3) Have you been in close contact with an infected person within the last 10 days?

**Note: By participating in our programs, we reserve the right to take a contactless temperature of a participant if they are exhibiting symptoms of fever.**

## **SECTION 3: COVID-19 RESPONSE PLANS**

### **Confirmed Positive COVID-19 Case**

If you, your child(ren), student(s) or chaperone(s) attended a program and recently tested positive for COVID-19, please inform us by contacting our office. Contact tracing will occur for any individual who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes. Likewise, if a staff member of ZSM recently tested positive for COVID-19, we will conduct contact tracing and communicate with you as described below. ZSM will be mindful of the individual's privacy and confidentiality when communicating. ZSM will generally share that an individual they may have come into contact with has recently tested positive for COVID-19.

Note that in the event of a positive COVID-19 case, the area used by the individual will be closed off, ventilated and then cleaned and disinfected thoroughly by the Environmental Services department of the Milwaukee County Zoo.

A participant with a confirmed positive COVID-19 case will not be able to return to our programs until it is deemed safe to do so by the Vice President of Programs.

#### *Zoo Camps or Classes*

All participants or staff of the same classroom and/or cohort will be contacted via email and ZSM staff will be available via phone for any follow-up questions. Additionally, all participants or staff who were present in the building on that given day will be informed via email.

#### *School Programs*

The responsibility of contact tracing for school programs will lie with the teacher and/or school administration. If the class that attended recently had a student that tested positive, please inform the other individuals in your class in alignment with your schools' policies. If a ZSM staff member tested positive, we will inform the classroom teacher via email and be available via phone for any follow-up questions. We ask that you inform your students and their families.

### **Probable COVID-19 Case**

While we understand that COVID-19 symptoms are shared with many other illnesses, ZSM must ensure the safety of the participants, staff and guests in the building. Participants should report all symptoms similar to COVID-19 immediately to ZSM staff members. If staff notice symptoms similar to COVID-19 in a participant (e.g. dry cough), steps will be taken to isolate the participant in an outdoor space or isolated room. Staff member(s) will stay present with the participant if they are attending without a grown-up or chaperone. The parent and guardian will be contacted to have the participant picked up for the day.