



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Children's Museum of Pittsburgh and MuseumLab are taking the precautionary step of temporarily closing to the public, as of Close of Business on Friday, March 13, 2020

Pittsburgh, PA (March 13, 2020) — Children's Museum of Pittsburgh and MuseumLab are taking the preventative measure of closing the museums due to the COVID-19 virus.

There have been no documented cases of any visitors or staff who have been exposed to COVID-19. However, our paramount concern is always for the health and wellness of our guests and staff. At this time we are going to be evaluating this decision on a day by day basis, and as the situation changes we will provide updates to our members, guests, staff and the community.

"We are taking the unprecedented step of closing Children's Museum of Pittsburgh and MuseumLab to safeguard our visitors and staff and mitigate the impact of COVID-19 in our community," said Jane Werner, Executive Director. "Our focus is now shifting to how we can provide online and in home experiences that inspire joy, creativity, and curiosity to children and their families during this challenging time."

This decision was informed by the recommendation of PA Governor Tom Wolf to limit large group activity and close the schools in Pennsylvania, as well as discussions with public health experts, government organizations, peer institutions and our staff and leadership team.

We have notified groups, including field trips, weddings, and events. Where needed, we will provide refunds for any activities that cannot be rescheduled.

During the time the museum is closed to the public and events, we will be taking the opportunity to deep clean all areas of the museum. The staff will work remotely for now. We will have people in the building for ongoing continuity operations as needed - we will not be admitting guests.

One key goal we hope to achieve is to become a resource for the children and the community to help them understand and learn during this time. We plan on providing programming and

educational activities that can be done online or at home, including releasing episodes of the MakeShop Show and sharing more content at www.pittsburghkids.org.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak, we have taken precautionary measures to provide a safe environment for our guests and staff.

- Cancelled events for groups over 250 based on the recommendation made March 12, 2020, by PA Governor Tom Wolf and PA Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine, we limited large group activity at the museum.
- Increased the intensity and duration of cleaning at the museum
- Using hard surface disinfecting wipes on railings, door knobs, light switches, bathroom surfaces and Cafe chairs and leaving treated surfaces wet after cleaning to allow for maximum effectiveness
- Making more frequent rounds to check soap and paper towel levels in all of the bathrooms
- Updating bathroom motion detectors to enable hands-free operation of bathroom lights
- Increasing the number of hand sanitizer stations throughout our facilities

For more information please visit: pittsburghkids.org

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About Children's Museum of Pittsburgh

Children's Museum of Pittsburgh is a place that delights and inspires children, where they can take off on fantastic flights of imagination daily, and return to earth to splash in a river, hammer a nail and ink a silkscreen. With 80,000 square feet of space the Museum welcomes more than 307,000 visitors annually and provides tons of fun and loads of "real stuff" experiences for play and learning. Permanent hands-on, interactive exhibit areas at the Museum include The Studio, Theater, Waterplay, Attic, Nursery, Backyard and MAKESHOP®. The Museum's award-winning, three-story, center building is screened by a shimmering wind Sculpture and connects two historic structures (Allegheny Post Office Building & the Buhl Building). In 2006 the Museum became a certified green building and was honored by the American Institute for Architects and the National Historic Preservation Trust. In 2015 Parents Magazine named the Museum one of the nation's fifteen top children's museums and in 2017 and 2020 the Children's Museum was Voted One of the Nation's Ten Best Museums for Families in USA Today 10 Best Reader's Choice Contest for Best Museum for Families in America. On April 27, 2019 Children's Museum of Pittsburgh opened MuseumLab™, a new museum for older kids, located in the former Carnegie Free Library of Allegheny adjacent to the Children's Museum. With the opening of MuseumLab on April 27, 2019, Children's Museum of Pittsburgh has transformed a North Side landmark into an integral component of what is now the nation's the largest cultural campus for children.