

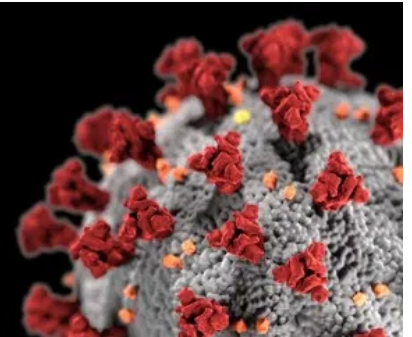
About Museums

IN THIS SECTION



Preparing to reopen

COVID-19/coronavirus: Resources & Information for the Museum Field



Support Free COVID-19 Resources for the Field:

These resources have been taken out from behind the member paywall to make them free and accessible for all. The current crisis is taking a distressing financial toll on cultural organizations, and AAM is no different. In these challenging times, we ask that if you can, consider supporting our advocacy work and making extensive COVID-19 resources freely available for our field, by [making a donation](#) or [becoming a member](#) of AAM. Thank you for your much-needed support.

The American Alliance of Museums recommends that museums build flexible plans for reopening that are regularly reviewed and refined based on the latest science. This guidance is based on the best available information as of publication and is not intended to supersede guidance from public health officials, medical experts, and federal/state/local governments. Museums are encouraged to seek legal and other expert advice on their specific circumstances. Below are some thoughts for reopening.

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A gradual approach allows your museum to prioritize health and safety while taking progressive steps to restore regular operations. It also provides flexibility for regular monitoring and revision of your plan.

Prioritize health and safety

Follow [CDC](#) and [OSHA/HHS](#) guidance as well as orders and recommendations from federal/state/ local governments and your [state](#) and [local](#) health officials. Review and incorporate into your plan relevant guidance for [communities, workplaces, and events](#).

Establish clear cleaning protocols

Update your museum's cleaning protocols based on [CDC recommendations for cleaning and disinfecting facilities](#) and [industry-recommended practices for collections care](#). If you operate a food-service area, follow [FDA best practices](#).

Review and update your workplace policies

Policies for employee leave, telework, and compensation should be reviewed and updated to protect your staff, provide flexibility, and allow sick employees to stay home.

Restrict contact, capacity, and access

As part of your museum's phased approach, consider how you will limit person-to-person contact, monitor the number of visitors, and restrict or prohibit access to certain areas of the museum.

Provide training for staff

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Communicate clearly and frequently

Communicate proactively with both staff and the public about your plans and the protocols in place for their health and safety. [Research](#) from Edelman found that people consider employer communications the most credible source of information about COVID-19, and we know that museums are among the most trusted institutions in their communities (see “Museums are Trusted” section of AAM’s [Museum Facts and Data](#)). Our institutions can play an important role in assuring staff and educating the public about the science and facts of COVID-19.

Coordinate your approach and connect with the museum community

Connect with other museums in your community for consistency and supply sharing.

- **Join the robust conversation** on [Museum Junction](#) to learn alongside your peers.
- **Participate in #AAMvirtual**, AAM’s [virtual convening](#) on May 18 and June 1-4, where the museum community will address how we can overcome the current threat and rebuild a more sustainable, inclusive, and powerful museum field for the future.

Additional Resources

- [Lessons Learned from SARS: How Museums Emerge After Crisis](#)
- [National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences COVID-19 Response Training](#)
- [Public Health Principles for a Phased Reopening During COVID-19: Guidance for Governors](#)
- [Sharing What We’ve Learned: A Blueprint for Businesses](#)

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