



For Immediate Release

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An update regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19) for our guests

Hattiesburg, MS (March 12, 2020) - As the prevalence of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) draws closer to home, we recognize there are questions this challenge presents. The health and wellbeing of our guests and the public is always paramount. As such, the African American Military History Museum at the Historic USO Club is committed to operating with public health at the forefront, guided by expert information from public health and government authorities, and best practices from our fellow museums.

Currently, the Museum is open for regular business hours (Wednesday-Friday from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and Saturday from 12 noon - 4 p.m.) and welcomes guests. We have implemented extra measures to enhance our regular program of hygiene, cleaning, and operation. The starting point for the Museum is an increased frequency of cleaning of high-touch areas such as door handles, railings, counters, photo op locations, interactive kiosks, and activation buttons. This includes the Red Ball Express Interactive Exhibit and Lola Williams Theater.

We have also added additional hand sanitizing stations along with more visible signage to lead guests to these resources. And, we are taking this time of heightened awareness to provide information about best hygiene practices and illness prevention to guests and employees. In order to promote a smooth, even flow of guests, the museum will encourage self-guided tours instead of group tours.

We are carefully monitoring operational activities of industry leaders in North American museums, especially guidance from the American Alliance for Museums, to understand decision factors as the industry faces the same issues we do. This means that while we remain open, we may modify certain activities, programs, or guest volume to provide the highest level of safe enjoyment to all.

Our goal is to provide a safe sanctuary with access to the inspirational stories of our American heroes during challenging times such as these.

We will continually update our status and operational changes as our community moves forward, so please be sure to visit Hattiesburg.org to get up-to-date information and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

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Located at 305 East Sixth Street in downtown Hattiesburg, the African American Military History Museum is dedicated to preserving the Historic USO Club and the collections within, providing awareness and knowledge of African American experiences and contributions in the United States Armed Forces. Managed and operated by the Hattiesburg Convention Commission, it is currently the only surviving restored USO built exclusively for African American soldiers, and in 2003 was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. More than 150 years of African American military history is on display in the Museum. Our mission is to enhance the lives of our neighbors and grow the economy of Hattiesburg by highlighting the rich history of our area's African American community through preservation and interpretation of their contributions.