

HATTIESBURG ZOO

For Immediate Release

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COVID-19 Update from Hattiesburg Zoo

Hattiesburg, MS (March 16, 2020) - The Hattiesburg Zoo announced today that it will close at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, March 16 and not reopen until at least March 31 in an effort to help stop the spread of coronavirus, or COVID-19. The Hattiesburg Zoo has been closely monitoring health information on COVID-19 along with recommendations of the CDC, State of Mississippi, and City of Hattiesburg. As a result of this guidance, we have made the difficult decision to close to the public. The health and safety of our guests, staff, animals, volunteers and the community are our highest priority.

The Hattiesburg Zoo's mission is to further our guests' appreciation, respect, and knowledge of nature in a way that improves our quality of life. At this time, we believe that closing will improve our community's quality of life over the long term.

In addition to our guests, we have a great responsibility in taking care of Kipling, Maya, Chewy, Craig, Tina, and all of the other wildlife in our charge. Animal care will continue through our professional zookeepers while they implement personal safety procedures that are continuously updated in accordance with the CDC and industry standards. These, of course, may change on a daily basis and so, we will adapt to protect our staff and the wildlife in their care.

We know that our regular guests may find themselves at home with a desire to see what is going on in the world of the Hattiesburg Zoo. So, please follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) as we publish behind-the-scenes videos of our ongoing animal care and training processes each day.

Along with these animal care updates, we will share with you special projects and construction updates as we look to open our new Giraffe and Hyena Exhibits later this year. And, of course, we will keep you posted of any new developments that modify our temporary closure.

Together with you, our community of friends and supporters, we will emerge from this challenge with our eyes still on the future and our hearts in the natural world.

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The Hattiesburg Zoo is a Hattiesburg Convention Commission Facility, in partnership with the City of Hattiesburg. Since 1991, the Hattiesburg Convention Commission has been creating and operating high quality-of-life attractions for the Hattiesburg area. Our mission is to further our guests' appreciation, respect, and knowledge of nature through education, recreation, and unique events that improve our economy and quality of life.