

HATTIESBURG ZOO

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 Hattiesburg Zoo 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 Zoos.

Currently, the Hattiesburg Zoo is open for regular business hours (Tuesday-Sunday 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.) and welcoming guests. We have implemented extra measures to enhance our regular program of hygiene, cleaning and operation. The starting point for the Zoo is an increased frequency of cleaning of high-touch areas such as door handles, railings, counters, photo op locations, and more. This includes the train and carousel touch points, as well. 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 good hygiene practices and illness prevention to guests and employees. In addition, we are moving indoor activities and programs to outdoor areas (including but not limited to scheduled programming at the Asbury Discovery Center, Education Room, Field Trips, Birthday Parties, etc.).

We are carefully monitoring operational activities of industry leaders in North American zoos to understand decision factors as they face some of 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 for parents and children. Access to some fresh air and the great outdoors can raise our spirits during times like 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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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.