

News Release



Jackson Hole Children's Museum
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JACKSON HOLE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM ANNOUNCES TEMPORARY CLOSURE *Organization Prioritizing Public Health*

Jackson, WY – In a letter to Members and visitors, Jackson Hole Children's Museum today announced it would temporarily close its Museum and pause programming in order to spearhead the community's response to the recent rise in Covid-19 cases.

Executive Director Ethan Lobdell wrote, "As a community resource serving many families and working closely with several local organizations, JHCM has opted to close the Museum and cancel all programs for the time being in order to be proactive about the current community spread of Covid-19 and to protect our staff and visitors from potential exposure."

After closing in March, the Museum reopened October 5th with limited occupancy, revised policies for safety and social distancing, and strict sanitizing procedures. Even with these precautions, the Museum could see over 100 visitors on a weekly basis in addition to the 60 K-5 students enrolled in the organization's Afterschool programs.

"We understand the impact this closure will have on teachers, students, families, parents, and children and appreciate the community understanding the urgency and importance of this decision," Lobdell wrote in the announcement.

The Museum's Education Staff is working to transpose their in-person STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) curriculum to a hybrid-learning platform that will allow Museum staff to collaborate with teachers to deliver STEAM programming to students in their regular classrooms. Prior to the temporary closure, Teton County School District classes and local preschools were visiting the Museum's workshop to receive supplemental STEAM programming.

Over the next few weeks the Museum administration will be monitoring data and guidance from public health officials and local leaders to determine the safest process for reopening the Museum and providing Afterschool, preschool, and STEAM programming.

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About Jackson Hole Children's Museum

Play. Create. Explore. Discover. At the Jackson Hole Children's Museum, we encourage families to examine the world together through interactive, hands-on exhibits and educational programs in the arts, sciences, literature, and history. Our goal is to help children and grown-ups of all ages build a love of learning through collaborative play and creative problem-solving in a nurturing environment.