

March 15th, 2020

Over the past week we have had multiple conversations in the office concerning awareness and community support for our health systems during the COVID-19 pandemic, so I have been working to ensure that I could carry out my role in a remote format if there became a need. I was also able to set up my home office to connect with OneDrive, SharePoint, Teams, and Outlook/Calendar. By Friday, Governor Whitmer announced that the schools would close until April, and in support, we also closed our doors to the public for at least the next two weeks in support. The two field trips planned during March will be rescheduled after school resumes.

From MLive tonight: Gov. Gretchen Whitmer told Michigan residents on Sunday to assume they have coronavirus as a way to help prevent its further spread in the state. "Even if you are young, even if you feel healthy and you don't have any symptoms right now, you can unknowingly be carrying this virus," she said during a Sunday evening press conference. "Assume that you are and take this seriously. It's not just about protecting yourself it's about protecting everyone." [Click to Link](#)

As such, I am looking to work remotely for the next two weeks to match our public closure. This is not something that I have decided easily. My personal feelings are that I would like to limit my interactions as much as possible. In the last two weeks, I have traveled to a county of MI with confirmed cases of illness, and while I am a health young adult with no symptoms, research has shown that this time set aside can be the difference in sharing illness through the community to those who aren't so fortunate.

I have a number of "To-Do's" that I can continue to work at:

★ Educational Programs- Looking towards May/June

Regular Field Trip Offerings- Adjusting the Field trip letter/chaperone guide to suit 2020 programs. Emphasize "Art, History, Science" mission. Focused Planetarium and Fossil Park, solid grade appropriate offerings for Native American, Wildlife, and Art galleries. I-Spy Animal hunt has been created and used in upper (3-6th) and lower (k-2nd) learners. Updated Art resources for volunteers includes color wheel samples and color "emotion" words. Tested with two groups, can be used in multiple galleries.

Expanded Headstart/Preschool Programming- Museum map for Preschool/Early learners and Chaperones. Includes introduction to the planetarium space science. Plus, Early Museum Manners. Reflecting upon our early March visits, I have many thoughts on how we can continue to advance our offerings for our littlest learners.

- ★ Besser Buddies- Including Besser Buddies as a valuable part of our expanded Museum Manners, Maps, and Signage. The Brother/sister duo act as role models for learning in this space. I would like to create a new booklet for parents when they visit the museum with their children. Featuring the duo on future signage, small I-spy symbols, kid's museum maps and coloring sheets.
- ★ Interpretive Signage- I have already started the Avenue of shops, influenced by the Logging displays and the signage that we printed for the Green School. The Cooper shop is essentially complete, but I am working to resize the signage. I am working to reformat the original booklet for our "window looking" visitors who might not carry the booklet but want to see information

within the exhibits. This will expand to include the “Besser Buddies” and move to the exterior village exhibits.

- ★ Log Cabin (Fall Harvest)- Continue networking and solidify with our Fall Harvest volunteers. Seeking extra reenactors for the village (inside and outside). Additional entertainment (music) and Food (hot dogs). Make advertising samples (newspaper and Facebook). Making activity maps.
- ★ Earth Day/Family Activity Days- Evaluate calendar date (consider moving to May). Work with volunteers through schedule updates, make updates to Facebook/news media as needed.

I will continue to be available by email and through phone. While I am set up with Teams, the most direct method to contact me is by cell, which is (906)361-1089.

Thank you sincerely,

Amanda Kucharek

Education Coordinator