

# children's MUSEUM of the lowcountry

July 10, 2020

Dear Members, Friends, and Community Leaders,

The most frequent question we get at the Children's Museum of the Lowcountry these days is, "When are you going to be open?" We miss the sounds of laughter and the constant hum of little hands and voices exploring the museum so much! And we know you and your family have missed us too. Since we closed on March 16, we've been hard at work preparing for your return to our high-touch, experiential museum. With carefully executed policies in place for everyone's health and safety, we have readied ourselves for the return of general visitors.

At this time, we are setting a proposed open date for general visitation of **July 19, 2020**. That day, we will welcome CML members only to 2 different playdate periods. One from 12:30-2:30pm and one from 3pm-5pm.

Our summer general public schedule will then be as follows:

- Open to the Public Monday and Friday evenings, 5:30-7:30pm.
- Open to Members Only on Wednesday evenings, 5:30-7:30pm (members are welcome at all playdate times but this is an exclusive time for you)
- Open Saturdays to the Public with 3 playdates, 9:30-11:30am, 12-2pm, and 2:30pm-4:30pm.
- Open Sundays to the Public, 12:30-2:30pm and 3-5pm.

Throughout the summer, we will continue to utilize the museum M-F, 8am-5pm for summer campers only. This is the best way to ensure the continued safety of this essential program, which has been running since June 15. We hope to begin our SuperStars program again in August.

How will this work?

- Playdates will have a maximum capacity of 90 individuals per 2-hour play period.
- Registration for the following week will be opened online at [exploreCML.org](https://exploreCML.org) on the Tuesday before, beginning at 12pm (for example, playdates for the week of July 19 will open on July 14) and be available on a first come, first serve basis. Registration will be available at: [exploreCML.org/playdate-registration](https://exploreCML.org/playdate-registration)
- All attendees will sign an online policy agreement prior to purchasing tickets.
- All visitors over the age of 2 will wear a face covering while on CML premises.
- Visitors will be temperature-screened at check-in. Any temperature registering greater than 100.4 will not be granted entry.
- Handwashing or sanitizing will be required at entry.

CML staff wear masks or shields at all times. While we have always used hospital-grade, nontoxic cleaners multiple times per day, we have newly employed UV sanitization, sanitizing shoe mats, and aqueous ozone cleaning methods. Many communal objects have been replaced with individual use items and certain soft items have been put aside for the time being. In addition, there will be bags throughout the museum to place touched items into so that our team can continuously clean and replace items.

What happens to memberships?

All memberships will be extended 4 months. With more than 3,300 household members, please be patient with this process as we work to adjust large amounts of data. If you would like to support the museum, we would ask that you consider a renewal either in addition to or in place of this extension. If you are willing to waive your membership extension, please email us at [membership@exploreCML.org](mailto:membership@exploreCML.org) with the subject No Extension. (You do not need to email us if you want the extension.)

What's new?

We're so pleased to share that we've continued working on our capital campaign, Make & Believe, work during this closure period. Using previously raised funds, we've neared completion on a new Toddler Room that is conveniently at the front of the museum, the Boeing BrightLab - an early childhood Makerspace, the Speak Loud Studio - exploring performing arts and storytelling, and Air Air Everywhere - using the power of air to move everything from sail cars to paper airplanes.

Our closure for COVID-19 has placed a difficult financial strain on the museum but we continue to work to serve the community. With more than 80% of our operating budget coming from earned revenue, the money we collect through retail, memberships, events, and admissions have been the primary vehicles for supporting the museum and its mission-based programs for our 17-year history. Since that time, over 2.5 million children, their educators, and families- primarily from Charleston, Berkeley, and Dorchester counties - have been reached by CML, including those for whom this programming would typically be out of reach. Our work goes far beyond the museum walls, reaching early education and elementary classrooms, providing professional development, and community education support to the tri-county. Whether you visit this summer or not, please consider the wide-ranging impact of CML on our region, and make a donation at [exploreCML.org/donate](https://exploreCML.org/donate) to assist us through this time.

Yours in Play,



Nichole Myles  
Executive Director  
The Children's Museum of the Lowcountry