



## **Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum**

### **Reopening Plan:**

**Estate Grounds, Memorial Wing, Hall of Fishes,**

**Habitat and Stoll Wing**

As the **Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum** moves to reopen the Estate's park-like grounds and two buildings, the number of activities will be governed largely by Suffolk County and New York State guidelines for Covid-19 prevention. Guidelines in this reopening plan are based on the most up-to-date information offered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the New York State Department of Health Services.

The Vanderbilt will reopen Saturday, March 27, 2021. As it reopens, it will continue to provide a safe environment for visitors, volunteers, and staff. Set to open to the public are the Memorial Wing, Hall of Fishes, Habitat, and Stoll Wing. The restrooms at the security gatehouse at the Museum entrance will be open, along with those in the Memorial Wing. The plan is to reopen initially for a fun, family-themed, community event, **Vandy Land**, for six days and three evenings. This will include a miniature golf course, which will remain open for the remainder of April following the one-week run of **Vandy Land**.

**Vandy Land** offers safe, outdoor game-days with something for everyone. Features will include kid-friendly characters, a scavenger hunt, crafts, musical entertainment, refreshments, and more. Mr. Bunny will be hopping by for photo visits, too. On Saturday, April 3, from 9:00 to 11:00 am, visitors can bring their dogs for a photo with Mr. Bunny. During the evening, strolling visitors and mini golfers will see a spectacular animated, three-dimensional light show projected onto the façade of the Hall of Fishes marine museum. Designed by North Stream using cutting-edge technology and high-powered laser projectors, the lights will digitally alter the architecture of the building in real time.

The Vanderbilt understands the importance of taking preventative measures to keep everyone protected. Signs around the property will remind visitors that social distancing and the wearing of masks are required. The Site-Use, Security and Admissions staff will oversee daily event operations. All tickets must be purchased online in advance through the Museum website.

Tickets are for specific time slots and the number of visitors admitted will be limited. The two open restrooms at the Museum entrance and in Memorial Wing will be cleaned frequently throughout the event, following CDC guidelines. The Museum will schedule additional security guards throughout the property during open hours.

Beginning Saturday, April 10, 2021, the Museum will open its doors to the public on Saturdays and Sundays, from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. Staff members will be stationed in the galleries and capacity will be limited to 25 percent. Staff also will be sanitizing touchpoints in all areas. In addition to the inside attractions that will be available once again, visitors will be able to stroll the waterfront estate grounds, enjoy a picnic lunch, or fly a kite.

The Museum has scheduled 13 outdoor weddings and some special events for the year. All weddings will be restricted to a 100-person capacity for May and June. No weddings or events will be scheduled indoors. The Museum is taking all precautions and following all state and county government safety requirements. The Vanderbilt's team of seasoned staff members is working to make sure that all safety protocols are in place. The Museum will assess each event individually to ensure compliance with government requirements, including necessary permits and Covid testing. As further requirements are released, the Museum will adapt to meet updated regulations.

## **Planetarium Policies & Safety Procedures**

**The Museum will safely reopen its Charles and Helen Reichert Planetarium (at a date yet to be determined) with socially distanced seating and rigorous cleaning between shows.**

- Face coverings will be required inside the building.
- No entry into the planetarium once the show has begun.
- Shows will start on time.
- No re-admittance once a visitor has left the theater. All exits are final.
- Ushers will show visitors to their seat upon entry into the theater.
- Planetarium bathrooms are ONLY for visitors entering the building.
- Visitors may NOT switch seats due to social distancing requirements.

## **Required Procedures for Staff Working on the Property**

**All Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum staff must:**

- Stay home if they are sick, or showing or feeling any Covid-19 symptoms, such as fever, coughing, and/or troubled breathing. If so, they must contact their supervisor and call their doctor.
- Practice social distancing by keeping at least six (6) feet of distance between themselves and others, even when outdoors.
- When working near or with others, staff must use personal protection equipment (masks, face shields, gloves, etc.).
- Wash hands often. When soap and water are not available, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol must be used.
- Practice healthy hygiene habits and avoid unnecessary contact with surfaces that are often touched, such as doorknobs and handrails.
- Avoid close physical contact, such as shaking hands.
- Reconfigure communal workspaces and shared lunch areas

- Use only designated building entrances not accessible to the public.
- Use sanitizer stations upon entering and exiting facilities.
- Remove screened doors and keep property doors open to limit contact at entry points.
- Follow touchpoint safety procedures at each department's Paychex time-clock station

## **Preparations and Requirements for Reopening Grounds for General Visitation, Weddings, and All Special Events**

- Visitors may not enter the property if they have been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19, are experiencing a cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat right now – or have experienced symptoms like a fever, a new loss of taste or smell, vomiting or diarrhea, or fever in the last 48 hours.
- When indoors or outdoors, visitors are required to wear masks or facial covering and to maintain a safe distance of at least six feet between themselves, others, and Museum employees.
- Visitors must make frequent use of hand-sanitizing stations throughout the property.
- All visitors must carry out everything they bring with them to the property, including picnic/food waste, and water or beverage containers.

### **The Museum will:**

- Install outdoor signage that details required safety procedures (social-distancing, wearing masks).
- Indicate queuing distances of at least at six feet.
- Implement advance, online ticket sales only; no cash or credit-card transactions whenever possible.
- Designate one-way-only traffic in buildings and along hiking trails to reduce exposure.
- Keep restroom entrance doors open to limit contact at entry points.
- Require staff to wash or sanitize hands frequently, avoid touching face and mask, practice responsible social manners.
- Continue practices THAT REDUCE THE POTENTIAL FOR EXPOSURE.

## **Required Cleaning and Disinfecting Procedures**

**In accordance with CDC and Suffolk County guidelines, staff must carry out these practices for Museum buildings that will be opened to the public:**

- Disinfect surfaces that people touch frequently.
- Disinfect all door handles and handrails.
- Disinfect bathrooms (handles, sinks and counters, faucets, stall-door latches, towel dispenser).
- Keep soap, sanitizer, and paper towels stocked.
- Install additional indoor and outdoor hand-sanitizer stations.
- **High** touch surfaces made of plastic or metal, such as grab bars, play structures, and railings should be cleaned routinely.
- Other high touch surfaces include: Tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, sinks.
- Wear disposable gloves to clean and disinfect and discard after use or use reusable gloves that are dedicated only for cleaning and disinfecting. Always wash hands after removing gloves.
- Clean any dirty surfaces using soap and water first, then use disinfectant.

**This document will be updated periodically.**