



HENRY VILAS ZOO®

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Henry Vilas Zoo Announces Temporary Closure

Henry Vilas Zoo is temporarily closing to the public effective March 14, 2020 following the recommendations of state and county health officials to help slow the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in our community. The zoo will remain closed until further notice as we learn more about the impacts of the coronavirus.

Critical operations staff, which includes animal care teams, will continue to work at the zoo to provide care to animals and infrastructure. All other employees will work from home.

“We are taking this pandemic very seriously for the safety of our guests, staff and animals,” said Executive Zoo Director Ronda Schwetz. “The care of our animals is the heart of our mission and we appreciate the community’s support and understanding as we navigate this situation.”

The animal care staff will continue to provide world class care for the animals at Henry Vilas Zoo. The zoo currently has a surplus of essential food and medical supplies for the animals, and staff will continue to proactively monitor supply chains and prepare for contingencies. Zookeepers will ensure that animals have access to both indoor and outdoor areas and continue receiving animal enrichment every day.

All zoo camps and education programs through April 3, 2020 have been canceled. Registered participants have been emailed with more information. If you have any questions about education programs, please email education@henryvilaszoo.gov.

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