



Dear Group Chaperones,

On behalf of our entire team, I am excited to welcome your group to the EcoTarium, New England's Museum of Science and Nature. This letter contains information you need to know in preparation for your visit, as well as updates for the spring and summer seasons.

By purchasing a ticket to the EcoTarium, you agree to abide by all Museum policies and requirements for visitors.

COVID Policy: Your health and safety, and the health and safety of our staff and animals, is our priority. As you know, COVID-19 continues to spread in the community. Please make note of the following science-based policies intended to protect you and others from infection.

If unwell, please stay home. If you or anyone in your group is experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms, please stay home, isolate from others, and call your doctor. Please review the list of symptoms here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

If you or any member of your group have recently been in contact with someone confirmed or suspected of having COVID-19, please follow quarantine guidelines and seek testing. Quarantine periods vary based upon vaccine status. Please review quarantine guidelines here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html>

Masks are recommended indoors for all museum guests to reduce the risk of transmission while exploring the museum's fun interactive exhibits. Face coverings are a critical public health tool for preventing the spread of COVID-19 and protecting the health and safety of all vulnerable guests, staff, and indoor resident-animals. Your mask should cover your nose and mouth at all times except when actively eating and drinking in designated areas. The EcoTarium provides complimentary, disposable masks at the Information Desk on the upper level.

Masks are required to enter the Alden Planetarium. The Alden Planetarium can seat approximately 80 guests. Guests ages 2 and older are required to wear masks while inside the Planetarium. The EcoTarium will make masks available at the entrance to the Planetarium for guests who need one.

Please encourage students, chaperones, and educators to bring a mask for their field trip. Masks will be available for those who forget, but supplies are limited.

Continuous cleaning: EcoTarium staff members clean the museum throughout the day. Hand Sanitizer is available in multiple locations on each floor of the museum for your use. Please wash your hands and use hand sanitizer during your visit. Don't forget to "**Stop, Scan, and Scrub.**" Stop as you enter exhibit areas. Scan around to gauge if you can maintain safe distancing while interacting with the exhibit. Scrub (or sanitize) your hands before and after you visit a gallery space.

Protect Wildlife: When outdoors, please remind children to keep a 6-foot distance from our resident-wildlife, particularly the North American River Otters, Red Fox, and Mountain Lions. These larger animals are susceptible to COVID-19 and they don't have a vaccine or treatment available. Enjoy visiting the animals, but please help us keep them healthy!

Maintain Distance: We encourage all groups to eat outside when weather permits. Picnic tables are located at Upper Sundial Plaza and in the Nature Explore Playground/Exhibit. There are grassy areas near the lower parking lot that kids may enjoy. The indoor Snack Room on the middle level has limited seating available on a first come, first serve basis.

Visitor Code of Conduct and Group Management Policies

Your visit to the Museum should be enjoyable, educational, and fun! To ensure all visitors have a safe and memorable experience, we expect everyone to be respectful of other visitors, staff and volunteers.

Safety First: Your health and safety, and the health and safety of our staff, volunteers and animals, is the EcoTarium's top priority. Please follow the instructions of staff at all times. Weapons of any kind are not allowed on the property. If you see something that appears unsafe, please notify a staff member immediately.

Pets: The EcoTarium is a wildlife zoo regulated by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The USDA prohibits domestic animals anywhere on our property, including those left in vehicles. The only domestic animals allowed on the property are service animals.

Smoking: The EcoTarium is a smoke-free facility. Smoking of any kind including vaping (the use of electronic cigarettes) is not allowed on the grounds or inside any buildings.

Respect for All: The EcoTarium values diversity and is dedicated to providing a calm and respectful experience for everyone. The EcoTarium does not tolerate discrimination or any form of harassment. The EcoTarium prohibits harassment or discrimination based on ability, age, color, ethnicity, race, family or marital status, sex, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, pregnancy and related medical conditions, language, national origin, political affiliation, religion, socioeconomic status, veteran status, health status, and other dimensions of diversity.

Cleanliness: Please help us maintain a clean facility by picking up your trash and placing it in the trash bins.

Group Management: We want all children to have a successful visit! If you are chaperoning a group of children who have been on a school bus for a long ride, we recommend planning your visit to begin outside in the playground area to allow children to release some of their energy before coming into the museum. Our exhibits are expensive and in some cases irreplaceable and should be treated with care. Graffiti can cause permanent damage to an exhibit. Please remind all children to treat the museum's objects and animals with respect.

Fun: Exhibits and programs at the EcoTarium change regularly. You may notice some exhibits and experiences have returned for summer, such as the popular "Bubbles" exhibit, and others may be arriving soon. For regular updates and more information, please review our website at www.ecotarium.org

The Explorer Express Train is open! If you would like to add a train ride to your group visit, please email reservations@ecotarium.org to obtain the discounted group rate of \$5 per person.

The newly renovated Alden Planetarium is now open to the public with a variety of shows available each day. If you would like to add a Planetarium Show for your group, please email reservations@ecotarium.org to obtain the discounted group rate of \$6/person. Masks are required inside the planetarium for all guests 2+.

A new traveling exhibit called 'How People Make Things' is open for exploration! Every object in our world has a story of how it is made. **How People Make Things** tells that story by linking familiar childhood objects to a process of manufacturing that combines people, ideas and technology. Learn more at <https://ecotarium.org/exhibit/how-people-make-things/>

There are daily educational programs offered in the "Secrets of the Forest" room on the middle level of the museum at the top of the stairs. Museum educators lead these free, interactive discovery programs for all ages. Please visit the Secrets of the Forest for more information.

I hope you enjoy exploring this wonderful Museum and learning something new! Did you know that the EcoTarium is the second oldest Natural History Museum in the country? We take great pride in our historic collections and well-designed exhibits. Our team is excited to greet you and your group here at the EcoTarium. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns!

Sincerely,

Noreen Smith

Noreen Johnson Smith
President and CEO