

## **Woodland Park Zoo precautionary measures responsive to King County recommendations**

SEATTLE—Following the recommendation of King County officials and in an abundance of caution, Woodland Park Zoo has made decisions related to staffing and programming for the next three weeks to help slow the spread of the novel coronavirus.



### **Zoo Operations**

Woodland Park Zoo remains open at this time. Open-air areas of the zoo will continue to be accessible.

The ZooStore retail space is closed today. A ZooStore employee notified her manager this morning that she attends Lake Washington Institute of Technology. She is not exhibiting any symptoms, is not in the nursing program and has not had any known contact with impacted students. However, in an overabundance of caution, ZooStore is receiving a deep-cleaning and will be closed today. The employee last worked on February 29 and will remain home for the recommended 14 days.

Certain indoor, high-traffic areas will be closed for the next three weeks, in alignment with the recommended timeline from King County. These areas include Zoomazium, Willawong Station, the historic carousel and the Tropical Rainforest.

On-grounds programming, including animal feedings, school programs and large group gatherings, are canceled as a precaution for the health of our visitors and animals.

For guests who wish to visit the zoo and enjoy the outdoor areas, Woodland Park Zoo will supply wipes and/or alcohol-based hand sanitizer at all entrances, guest services and at existing hand washing stations around the zoo. Staff are increasing the number of daily restroom cleanings and are disinfecting high surface touch points such as knobs and handles during these checks.

Consistent with the decisions above to close certain high-trafficked, indoor areas, some office-based zoo employees who have the ability to work from

home are being asked to work remote, following the recommendation from King County.

### **Animal Care**

As the novel coronavirus started as a zoonotic disease, Woodland Park Zoo is taking precautions for our animals to ensure their continued health, such as limiting behind-the-scenes exposure to only animal care staff.

To date, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has not received any reports of animals in human care or wildlife becoming sick with COVID-19, the disease caused by novel coronavirus.

According to the CDC, there is no reason to think that any animals in the United States, including animals in human care or wildlife, might be a source of infection with this new coronavirus.

We are part of professional veterinary networks in the state, nationally and around the world. We are in constant contact to monitor the risks and recommendations associated with coronavirus and animals in human care.

Woodland Park Zoo plans ahead for the animals in our care. We currently have a surplus of essential food and medical supplies for our animals and will prepare contingencies and proactively monitor our supply chain to assure essentials remain on hand through the coming months.

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