

# **The Delaware Historical Society's Response to COVID-19**

**March 13, 2020**

**The Delaware Historical Society is committed to the health and well-being of our community, and we want to do our part to prevent the spread of COVID-19. We are temporarily postponing all public events, programs, and tours and closing the Delaware History Museum, Mitchell Center for African American Heritage, Old Town Hall, the Research Library, and the Read House & Gardens. We are closely monitoring this changing situation and will post all updates here and on our social media channels. Thank you.**



Message to the community:

We want to assure you that Delaware Historical Society, Read House & Gardens, and Mitchell Center for African American Heritage are dedicated to the health and safety of our visitors, staff, and volunteers. We are monitoring COVID-19 and proactively following CDC guidelines. We have reviewed with our employees the recommended precautions and best practices listed on the Center for Disease Control website and will be performing enhanced routine cleanings of frequently touched surfaces, such as doorknobs, handles, and restroom areas. Additional wipes and sanitizer stations have been ordered and will be stationed at various locations inside our museums.

No one can stop the spread of illness, but we are doing our best to keep our members, volunteers, and staff healthy. The health and safety of our members and audiences remains our top priority, and you can help by staying home if you are not feeling well.

We do not know how this virus will unfold in our area, but please be sure that we will continue to communicate with you on any relevant developments related to our upcoming spring programming, fundraising events, and museum and library hours.

**Public programs and rental events will be updated regularly. Please see our website and social media.**

In addition, we are taking these following proactive steps:

- We are postponing or rescheduling non-essential programs or events and limit or eliminate the sharing of food at the ones that remain on the calendar.
- If staff members feel unwell, they are encouraged to stay home or work remotely.
- The library and museum will not accept donations of artifacts or documents until further notice because the virus can exist on surfaces for many days.
- Staff will revisit these plans Friday 3/13 and Monday 3/16 to assess as new information from public officials and partners dictate revising plans.
- We will remain open as usual unless new information requires change.
- We will schedule a deep clean of all public surfaces.
- We are planning for different scenarios and will be monitoring the situation closely.
- The number of in-person meetings will be limited.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

David Young, Executive Director, Delaware Historical Society