Indiana State Museum and State Historic Sites – COVID-19 Opening Protocol
4.24.20

• First and foremost, as a quasi-government agency – we will take our lead from the Governor’s office as far as when we might reopen (as most everyone is, regardless of their status) – but we are probably more tied to that than others.

• We are doing the following:
  o Meeting as a Leadership Team twice a week – and having extended leadership meetings as needed to address re-opening.
  o Program and Experience teams looking at how we might alter things to address hands-on, social distancing, number of people in building/galleries, utilizing our outdoor spaces, etc.
  o We are in the process of bringing a new CRM system onboard in June (this was already in the works) – ALTRU (a Blackbaud product that is designed specifically for cultural institutions) will allow us to interface easier with stakeholders and make their experience “friendlier” as far as ticket sales, reservations, communications, etc. This will be especially timely as we look at overall museum operations across our 12 statewide locations and how those may change post-COVID.
  o Reviewing overall sanitation protocol – wiping down and disinfecting services, more hand sanitizers stations, masks/gloves(?), more frequent cleaning, etc.

• We have the unique situation of having a very large, open building (ISM downtown Indy) – so we will be looking at how we utilize that space to encourage social distancing. We have talked about marking floors – maybe with something fun like a graphic of a mastodon tusk or Indiana state flag or some the other artifacts that we have in our collection that are 6 ft. in length.

• As far as our historic sites – we have unique situations in some of the sights where we have outdoor experiences – including gardens and trails – that we will highlight as we re-open. For our historic house tours – we have a team looking at how we do that post-COVID. Things like: limiting # of visitors inside the mansion; limiting how many visitors can go on a tour at a time to allow for social distancing; highlighting different aspects and stories of the sites in new and different ways.

• As far as employees – again – we take our lead from Indiana State Personnel Department. We have not been told (and we don’t plan to at this time) do any COVID testing of employees or specific health screenings.