

Hello, I'm Dr. Anne McDonough, Medical Officer at the Smithsonian Institution.

As we welcome everyone back into our museums and the National Zoo, we want you to know that your health and safety are our top priority.

Throughout the Smithsonian's phased reopening, we are taking extra precautions to ensure your safety.

You will need to reserve timed-entry passes to visit most locations.

This helps us limit the number of people in our facilities at any given time.

Once on site, we're asking that you maintain a safe six-foot distance from others around you outside of your immediate group.

You will see signs throughout the museums to guide you on a one-way path through the exhibits, as well as reminders to distance and use appropriate face coverings.

We're requiring that all visitors age six or older wear face coverings without exhalation valves over your nose and mouth.

The latest science shows that face coverings are critical in reducing the spread of disease by adding an extra layer of protection between you and those around you.

This helps prevent infectious respiratory droplets from traveling in the air and reaching others.

Hand sanitizing stations are set up throughout our museum spaces for your use.

We also welcome you to bring your own hand sanitizer, as well.

Enhanced cleaning is underway at all our facilities.

Our teams are frequently disinfecting high touch surfaces, like door knobs, railings, counters, and restrooms.

Finally, we ask that if you're feeling sick, please stay home.

This includes symptoms of frequent cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, a headache, loss of smell or taste, or a fever greater than 100.4 degrees.

Welcome back.

Thank you for doing your part.

We are so pleased to see you again.