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CHILDREN'S MUSEUM ANNOUNCES SEPTEMBER 5 REOPENING

Health & Safety Protocols & Building Modifications Enable Return to Play

Long Island Children's Museum will be welcoming visitors back to play and learn on **Saturday, September 5**. The popular destination has put into place an aggressive health and safety plan and implemented building modifications, to ensure visitor and staff well-being and comfort. During the first phase of re-opening LICM will operate on a modified schedule of Thursday-Sunday from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Museum members are invited for exclusive play time on Thursday, September 3 and Friday, September 4 before the public re-opening.

As a space devoted to experiential learning, LICM has always been focused on providing a safe, clean and germ-free environment. This commitment has expanded exponentially during the COVID-19 pandemic, as staff has examined every aspect of its operations. Museum practices and protocols have been guided by public health-based guidelines and local and state requirements.

When visitors return, they will find enhanced safety practices in place and changes to the look of the space. These include:

- Upgrades to the Museum's HVAC system with medical-grade air filters (MERV-13)
- Use of electrostatic spray misters to provide wrap around disinfection of museum exhibits, components and props.
- Elevated disinfection procedures throughout the day with industry-grade, environmentally friendly sanitizing cleaning solution.
- Plexiglas partitions and limited contact payment option has been added to the Box Office and Yellow Admission desk.
- Required personal protective equipment by Museum staff and guests. Facemasks are required for all staff and visitors over the age of 2 as per New York State law.
- Safe physical distancing and exhibit capacity restriction in place.
- Difficult to clean exhibits or those where safe distancing is impossible to maintain will be temporarily closed or modified. Closed exhibits include Climb-it and Sandy Island.

- Costumes removed from exhibit galleries.
- Props will be cleaned, removed and disinfected throughout the day.

To avoid admission disappointment due to capacity restrictions, visitors and members are encouraged to secure tickets online (licm.org) for timed entry slots. The first entry slot of every day (10 a.m.) is available for Museum members only. Visitor admission will be capped at 25% capacity as per NY State requirements.

“We know that visitors have been anxious to come play with us,” said LICM President Suzanne LeBlanc. “But as a Museum that attracts a younger audience than most other, we wanted families to have the time to familiarize their children with new indoor protocols before they returned to LICM,” she explained. “We can’t wait to welcome families back to their favorite learning space.”

Although the Museum has been closed to the public, it has not cut back on providing families and schools with curated content to inspire children’s curiosity and imagination. LICM’s online programming has brought Museum experiences directly into visitors’ homes and virtual classrooms. This expansion of the Museum’s social media footprint has provided desperately needed normalcy during months of uncertainty.

About the Long Island Children’s Museum

The mission of Long Island Children’s Museum is to connect all our communities’ children, and those who care for them, to a life of wonder, imagination and exploration. At LICM, children discover their passions and their relationship to the world we share. The 40,000-square-foot museum welcomes nearly 250,000 children and annually. The private, not-for-profit institution chartered by the New York State Board of Regents, offers museum-based educational programs and cultural experiences, as well as an extensive community outreach program offered in schools, libraries and youth centers across Long Island. The Museum is the recipient of the 2012 National Medal for Museum & Library Service, the highest honor conferred on museums for extraordinary civic, educational, economic, environmental, and social contributions.