Museums in the Time of Coronavirus

As the coronavirus spreads throughout the world, the media report that some large museums, such as the Louvre and Metropolitan Museum of Art, are closing. So far, we are keeping the doors to the NMHFM open to visitors, but we are closely monitoring advisories from the World Health Organization and Centers for Disease Control.

To help ensure that our visitors remain safe and healthy while we continue operations with minimal disruptions, we have enhanced our cleaning procedures. Our housekeeper disinfects handrails and other surfaces that visitors and staff touch frequently, including interactive video screens and exhibits, on a daily basis. We have placed bottles of hand sanitizer and boxes of tissues in strategic places throughout our facilities. The restrooms are fully stocked with liquid soap and paper towels, and directions for properly washing hands are posted near each sink. As visitors pay at the admissions desk, they are encouraged to visit the nearest restroom and wash their hands before entering the exhibit galleries. We hope it goes without saying that any NMHFM staff members who feel ill are expected to remain at home until their symptoms pass.

Unlike the Louvre and Metropolitan, the NMHFM is located in Lake County, high in the Rockies and relatively remote from large urban centers, where there are thousands, if not millions, of potential disease vectors. Also unlike those museums, we do not have huge crowds of people jostling each other to view the Mona Lisa or an Egyptian temple. Although the first confirmed coronavirus case in Colorado occurred in a neighboring county, Lake County schools remain open, and we will continue to be until it is clear that we should close.