



# Mississippi Children's Museum COVID-19 Statewide Resources & Response

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## MISSISSIPPI CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

### MEDIA CONTACT

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Mississippi Children's Museum and Mississippi medical professionals answer children's COVID-19 questions and provides free, at-home learning resources to school districts and Head Starts.

Jackson, Miss. (April 10, 2020) – The Mississippi Children's Museum (MCM) meets the unique needs children, families, and educators face during the COVID-19 pandemic. Through a multi-faceted approach, MCM answers questions and provides resources to promote distance learning and foster social and emotional well-being.

To help the children of Mississippi navigate the unknowns of the COVID-19 virus and the stress that ensues, MCM invites all children to submit their questions regarding the virus. The deadline for submissions has been extended to April 13<sup>th</sup>. MCM is working with Mississippi's leading medical experts to provide scientifically-based answers translated in terms children can understand. Please send a video of your child asking their question to Susan Branson by emailing [sbranson@mcm.ms](mailto:sbranson@mcm.ms) or leave a voicemail at 601.709.8354. Please have your child state their first name, their age, their hometown and their question. We will release a video through our website and social media channels of medical experts answering their questions.

To help educators, parents, and our most at-risk youth, MCM has created hands-on learning resources children and families can access in the safety of their own homes. This work is funded in part by our regional and national partners including the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the Institute for Museum and Library Services, and The Barksdale Reading Institute. Each week, MCM is releasing lesson plans and instructional videos as well as resources from Talk from the Start (a new initiative from MCM in partnership with the Barksdale Reading Institute) free of charge to school districts and Head Starts across the state. Currently, Jackson Public School District, Meridian Public School District, and Lauderdale County School District are among the schools receiving these free resources. Contact Susan Branson if you're interested in receiving these instructional materials ([sbranson@mcm.ms](mailto:sbranson@mcm.ms)).

MCM has also launched "MCM at Home," an online database of activities, recommended readings, and videos as a resource to all caregivers statewide

and beyond. New materials are added weekly and are accessible at <https://mschildrensmuseum.org/activities-you-can-do-at-home/>.

“Children and their caregivers need learning, joy, and play now more than ever,” urges Susan Garrard, MCM President and CEO. “With the support of advocates for our work, our team has been able to create resources that will help foster engaging, hands-on learning for children in the safety of their own home. We also realize that our children are not immune to the stress caused by the disruption of COVID-19, and we want to give them a voice as well as answers to help calm their fears; for this we are so grateful to our friends and program partners across the community.”

#### **About the Mississippi Children’s Museum**

The Mississippi Children’s Museum (MCM) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering in its visitors a passion for lifelong learning, improving the health and well-being of Mississippi children, and instilling a sense of state pride in all Mississippi residents. The mission of MCM is to create unparalleled experiences to inspire excellence and a lifelong joy of learning. The goal of MCM is to inspire Mississippi’s children from all backgrounds to discover and achieve their potential. The 40,000-square foot museum is designed around five primary initiatives, with correlating exhibits, programs and outreach efforts. These initiatives include: Literacy, STEAM, Health and Nutrition, Cultural Arts and Mississippi Heritage—the keys to helping our children mature into healthy and productive adult learners. Museum exhibits provide engaging, explorative, hands-on educational activities for children of all ages. To learn more about MCM, visit [www.mschildrensmuseum.org](http://www.mschildrensmuseum.org).

#### **About the Mississippi Children’s Museum - Meridian**

The Mississippi Children’s Museum - Meridian (MCM - Meridian) the East Mississippi satellite campus of the statewide Mississippi Children’s Museum (MCM)—a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that provides unparalleled experiences that ignite a thirst for discovery, knowledge, and learning in all children. Currently, MCM - Meridian is building a 25,000-square foot facility with exhibit space designed around three primary initiatives: Literacy and Arts, STEAM, and Health and Nutrition with Cultural Arts and Mississippi History woven throughout all three galleries. The museum’s exhibits, programs, and outreach opportunities will provide engaging, explorative, hands-on educational activities for children of all ages. MCM - Meridian is a strategic part of the statewide Mississippi Children’s Museum which is dedicated to inspiring ALL of Mississippi’s children from ALL backgrounds to discover and achieve their potential. To learn more about MCM - Meridian, visit [www.mcmmeridian.org](http://www.mcmmeridian.org).

#### **About TALK From the START**

TALK From the START is an early literacy campaign to raise awareness that *talking to* and *with* children from birth is essential to learning to read. For more information visit [www.talkfromthestart.org](http://www.talkfromthestart.org).

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