



## 577 During the Coronavirus Pandemic: Your Questions Answered

(updated 07/01/2021)

The health of 577's employees, instructors, volunteers, and visitors will continue to guide the decision-making process for our phased re-opening. For the safety of our visitors, staff, and instructors, we are being more cautious than is required.

577 is a place of joy, wonder, and coming together for each other. We emphasize the importance of watching out for those around us.

Since there are still vulnerable folks in our community, and because we don't want to be in the business of verifying vaccine cards, we ask that visitors continue to mask up indoors at 577 or when we can't be six feet apart. It's a continued sign of respect and care for others who may not be able to receive the vaccine.

### **Are you open?**

The grounds are open for people to walk and play seven days a week between 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., including the outdoor nature play areas, StoryWalk, and outdoor picnic tables and benches.

All meetings, meeting reservations, professional photography, and guided tours are suspended at The 577 Foundation.

Offices remain closed to the public for the safety of our staff.

You may use the Courtyard bathroom in accordance with the posted guidelines.

Limited outdoor in-person classes will be offered. Please attend in accordance with the guidelines below. Online and remote classes will also continue.

June 15, 2021, the Dome opened for visitors who follow the posted guidelines. June 29, 2021, the Log House opened for visitors who follow the posted guidelines. Starting July 4, 2021, the Bee Room will be open for visitors who follow the posted guidelines.

Please:

- 1) Wear a mask inside buildings at 577, regardless of your vaccination status. Bring a mask with you just in case you need to use the restroom, enter a building, or greet a friend.

- 2) Stay home if you feel sick or have been exposed to illness.
- 3) Maintain a distance of at least 6 feet between you and members of other households.
  - 4) Take only pictures, leave only footprints. Carry out all trash and recyclables. Keep things at 577 nice for everyone.
  - 5) Touch surfaces at your own risk, or bring wipes to disinfect them before and after you use them.
  - 6) Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth. Hand washing is essential. Please do it often.

**Why aren't you doing all of your regular offerings?**

Our staff's efforts are focused on:

- 1) Keeping visitors, staff, and others safe and healthy.
- 2) Providing a beautiful outdoor space for people to enjoy during the pandemic that keeps them indoors and isolated.
- 3) With our 50 community gardeners, packing the 577 gardens to grow the maximum amount of organic produce. (We're doing our part to feed our neighbors across Northwest Ohio through local food banks. These are our "Virginia's Victory Gardens" in the spirit of our founder and benefactor, Virginia Secor Stranahan, who planted organic gardens during WWII right on the land where The 577 Foundation sits today.)
- 4) Experimenting with different ways to offer classes.
- 5) Keeping 577's finances and business operations sustainable through a combination of steady state and innovation.

**When will you be offering indoor classes again?**

Our staff is eager but meager, and the pandemic has created more work for us just to keep things running.

Please know that we're working on it!

**Are the outdoor play areas available?**

Nature play areas are open. This includes Virginia's Children's Garden, the Kaleidoscope, Solar Panel Display, and Did's Dig.

Please practice distancing on the play areas and stay at least six feet away from members of other households. Mask wearing is recommended just in case.

Please bring your own spades and brushes for use in Did's Dig. We will not be able to supply tools for the Dig this year.

Natural playscapes will not be wiped down. If you have concerns about using them, we recommend you wipe them before and after you use them.



<p><b>Do you take book donations?</b></p>	<p>We will be holding Book Drives on Wednesday, July 14, and Tuesday, July 20, from 4:30-6:00 p.m. and Saturday, July 31, from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pack them in boxes or bags that you do not want back. Cars will pull up, open the trunk, we will unload the books, and the cars will pull away.</li> <li>• Limit 4 boxes or bags per household per day.</li> <li>• Books must be in like-new condition.</li> <li>• We accept hardbacks, paperbacks, children’s books, nonfiction, fiction, and magazines that are less than 1 year old.</li> <li>• We do not accept: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Damaged, musty, or smokey materials</li> <li>○ Encyclopedias or textbooks</li> <li>○ Readers Digest novels and magazines</li> <li>○ National Geographics</li> <li>○ Magazines over 1 year old</li> <li>○ Books on tape, CDs, records, DVDs, VHS</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>May I come buy books from there?</b></p>	<p>We will hold a Book Fair (+Pottery) on the last Saturday July and August from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. You can purchase books and pottery there.</p>
<p><b>I have been assigned a community garden at 577. May I tend it?</b></p>	<p>If you are one of the pre-assigned community gardeners, as of today you may come to plant and tend your garden within these guidelines:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Tools will be available in the Community Gardener Tool Shed. You may use those as long as gardeners don’t congregate around the shed and they consistently sanitize their tools before and after use. Or you may bring and use your own tools if you prefer.</li> <li>2) Keep a distance of 6 feet from others. Just to be safe, make it two standard shovels’ lengths apart.</li> <li>3) If you’re able to plant a tad more than normal to give to food banks in a few months, please do. There could be more hungry people in need this year than usual.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Are you having the plant sale this year?</b></p>	<p>We held our plant sale during May with tomato plants and water plants.</p>
<p><b>May I purchase tomato plants or water plants?</b></p>	<p>We won’t be able to sell or give away water plants on-demand this year.</p>



<p><b>I'm a community instructor interested in teaching a class. Is that possible?</b></p>	<p>Classes at 577 are being taught online, remotely, or outdoors until further notice. If you'd like to teach in one of those formats, please email <a href="mailto:cstose@577foundation.org">cstose@577foundation.org</a> for details.</p> <p>We will reach out to you when we are ready to offer in-person, indoor classes again.</p>
<p><b>I'm a pottery student. May I come for independent time?</b></p>	<p>All indoor classes are suspended until further notice, including independent studio time.</p> <p>We are offering remote "pottery to go" kits every month as well as outdoor classes. Check the online class calendar for details at <a href="https://577foundation.recdesk.com/Community/Home">https://577foundation.recdesk.com/Community/Home</a>.</p>
<p><b>I'm a pottery student. May I pick up my items?</b></p>	<p>Pick-ups are being scheduled on a case-by-case basis. Contact Julie at <a href="mailto:jbeutler@577foundation.org">jbeutler@577foundation.org</a> for details.</p>
<p><b>Can we do wood kiln or raku since that's outside?</b></p>	<p>We are testing this out. Stay tuned!</p>
<p><b>I have a meeting scheduled there,</b>  <b>OR I'd like to reserve one of your rooms for a meeting.</b></p>	<p>All meetings and gatherings of people are suspended until further notice.</p> <p>Scheduling priority will be given to groups whose meetings were cancelled starting in March 2020. We will not be booking any new meetings until further notice.</p>
<p><b>I'd like to bring a group for a tour or field trip.</b></p>	<p>All tours and field trips are cancelled until further notice. We aren't accepting reservations for those at this time.</p>
<p><b>I'm trying to donate something to 577. Will you take it?</b></p>	<p>It depends on what it is! Give us a call so we can determine whether we need it or not. If you'd like to make a financial donation to help us weather this storm, you can do so online at <a href="http://577foundation.org/Donate.html">http://577foundation.org/Donate.html</a></p> <p>Or, consider donating to reputable social service organizations that are serving the most vulnerable people in our community right now.</p>



<p><b>Can we have a picnic there?</b></p>	<p>Yes! We welcome picnickers as long as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The picnicking group is small – not a family reunion or group gathering with lawn games, volleyball nets, coolers, etc. We try to balance the space for many different people in the community, not just a single family or business’s social gathering.</li> <li>2) The picnic is carry in – carry out all trash, food, and recyclables; take only pictures, leave only footprints. 577 is a conservation easement, so we try to generate as little trash here as possible.</li> <li>3) Please don’t feed the wildlife. Being in balance with nature is very important to us.</li> </ol> <p>Several picnic tables have been set up for first-come, first-served use. Leave things impeccably clean and sanitary for everyone else. Please bring your own wipes to clean them before and after you use them, and follow all of the general visitor guidelines from page 1 of this guide.</p>
<p><b>I’m a photographer and I’d like to take people’s portraits at 577.</b></p>	<p>This activity will be suspended until further notice so that visitors coming for nature time have the priority.</p>
<p><b>Will The 577 Foundation be ok?</b></p> <p><b>What can I do to help?</b></p>	<p>We have a bright, experienced team of people working to keep 577 Foundation executing our pandemic response plan. We are taking care of our staff, buildings, and grounds. You can help right now by taking preventative measures so that everyone stays healthy!</p> <p>We always accept unrestricted monetary donations to help us keep our little corner of the world beautiful, our programs interesting, and our operations sound. You can send a financial gift, online at <a href="http://577foundation.org/Donate.html">http://577foundation.org/Donate.html</a>.</p> <p>Or, consider donating to reputable social service organizations that are serving the most vulnerable people in our community right now.</p>
<p><b>AAAH! I’m a hugger. What do I do?!</b></p>	<p>We know. We are too. But for now, avoid social greetings like shaking hands and hugging. Our favorite alternative greetings include JAZZ HANDS!, putting your hand to your heart, or putting your palms together and bowing to the other person.</p> <p>Have some fun creating new no-touch greetings that you can do!</p>



**What's the big deal about COVID?**

***Let's talk about glitter.*** If you've ever had even a little bit of glitter in your house, you know that it spreads to places you couldn't have dreamed of for weeks after it first appeared. You end up with a speck of glitter on your face that you don't know how it got there. Your friends and family get it. It comes with you everywhere you go until it falls off somewhere.

If we all walk around our daily lives with COVID and don't know we have it, the "glitter" still gets on everyone else.

This illness is especially dangerous because we might be spreading it around like glitter before we even know we have it. Some people don't feel sick at all when they have it, making their "virus glitter" especially spreadable if they don't take everyday precautions. As the virus mutates into new variants, even people who have had COVID once are at risk of getting it again. The vaccine seems to be working, but will likely need a booster within the first year after receiving it. All of the information on this is still evolving as new scientific findings become available.

The preventative measures that we've all learned this past year provide layers of protection for everyone so that hospitals will not get overwhelmed all at once. These preventative actions are acts of care and consideration for everyone around you.

So: keep your glitter to yourself. But never stop shining, little star.

