

# ZAHP Update: May 2020

Reopening Resources, Facility Needs Assessment, and the 2020 Hurricane Season

## Considerations and Resources for Reopening

As facilities in the US begin re-opening, the ZAHP Fusion Center and the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians (AAZV) have compiled a list of considerations and trends in new procedures based off of information gathered from various industry list serves, articles, and facility specific plans. These [Considerations Early in the Reopening of Facilities in the USA](#) are not meant to be considered "best practices" as what is appropriate for one facility may not be the best practice for another.

Additional reopening resources are included below. Please refer to your [local public health department](#) for re-opening guidelines specific to your area.

### Reopening Resources

- [AZA Reopening Webinar Series](#) - *this resource is available to all*
- [IAAPA Reopening Guidance: Considerations for the Attraction Industry](#)
- [American Alliance of Museums Preparing to Reopen](#)
- [CDC Guidance for Communities, Schools, Workplaces, and Events](#)
- [FEMA Exercise Starter Kit for Workshop on Reconstituting Operations](#)
- [US Department of Labor Coronavirus Resources](#)
- [State by State Business Reopening Guidance - US Chamber of Commerce](#)

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## COVID-19 Zoological Facility Needs Assessment

Zoos, aquariums, sanctuaries, and like facilities continue to be heavily impacted by the ongoing response to COVID-19, causing significant financial losses and requiring facilities of all sizes to make significant operational and staffing changes. Zoological facilities continue to provide essential care for their animals despite these impacts however, as this event stretches on, financial constraints, shortages, supply chain issues, and other ripple effects could make it increasingly difficult for facilities to provide this care.

This needs assessment was developed to create a more complete picture of current and anticipated needs of the zoological community resulting from COVID-19. Aggregate data from this assessment will be used to inform ongoing response efforts, including advocacy for additional support for this community.

If your facility is interested in helping to further this effort, please have the appropriate representative complete the assessment here: <https://forms.gle/pPscC1z3d3pDkUrV7> . Please limit responses to 1 per facility. Respondents may choose to take the survey anonymously. Individual responses from this survey will not be shared.

Please contact Ashley Zielinski at [azielinski@aza.org](mailto:azielinski@aza.org) with any questions.

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## 2020 Hurricane Season

NOAA recently released outlooks for the 2020 hurricane season, predicting a 60% chance of an above normal season in the Atlantic, and a 25% chance of an above normal season in the Central and Eastern Pacific:

- [Atlantic](#)
- [Central Pacific](#)
- [Eastern Pacific](#)

With many facilities already making significant operational changes in response to COVID-19, it is critical that those in hurricane prone areas review response plans to identify and work to address any gaps. Consider the following:

- How may staffing changes impact your facility's ability to carry out existing response plans?
  - Are all staff familiar with their roles, and able to carry them out under current conditions?
  - Do procedures for ride-out teams need to be adjusted due to COVID-19
- Do the vendors and MOU holders identified in your plan still have capacity to assist?
  - Have alternative vendors been identified if not?
- Are relevant contacts for emergency management and response partners up to date?
  - Do these partners have up to date contacts for your facility?

Ready.gov has added additional considerations for COVID-19 to their [hurricane preparedness resources](#), and the CDC has released [Guidance on Preparing for Hurricanes During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#).

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