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## NARA Notice 2021-146: Limited Reopening of the Rotunda and Four Presidential Museums

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Mon, May 17, 2021



**To:** All Employees.

**Attention supervisors:** If you have employees who do not have access to a computer, please ensure that those employees receive a copy of this notice. This includes employees on LWOP or paid leave.

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I am pleased to announce that we will begin a limited public reopening of select exhibition spaces across NARA. Last Saturday, May 15, we reopened the Rotunda portion of the National Archives Museum in Washington, DC, and the upstairs portion of the museum at the Richard M. Nixon Presidential Library at Yorba Linda, CA. Over the next two weeks, we will allow for a limited public reopening of exhibit space at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library in Abilene, KS, and the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library at Simi Valley, CA. The George W. Bush Presidential Library in Dallas, TX, is currently open to the public on a limited basis and will expand its exhibit space in the coming weeks.

These five facilities were selected for limited public reopening because they are all in Phase Two of our Phased Reopening Plan, and each facility has an approved museum reopening plan and contact tracing procedure. Each museum is required to prepare a detailed reopening plan describing the additional controls that are in place to protect the safety of our workforce (including contractors) and museum visitors. Each museum has also prepared a procedure to notify staff and visitors if someone in the facility later reports COVID-19 symptoms or a diagnosis. All five facilities are in Phase Two of reopening, which means they have demonstrated readiness for staff occupancy and have experienced a sustained period of local public health conditions that meet or exceed our reopening standard.

We have established a large number of controls to ensure the safe operation of our exhibition spaces. We have strictly limited occupancy in our exhibit spaces to 25 percent of capacity, and we are using timed tickets to ensure that capacity is not exceeded at any time. We have limited the number of days and hours that each museum will be open each week, and limited the amount of exhibit space that will be open to the public. Exhibitions have been marked for one-way traffic as much as possible, we have placed stanchions and floor markings to promote physical distancing, and we have increased routine cleaning and disinfecting of hard surfaces in our exhibits.

No NARA staff will provide in-person visitor services. NARA staff will not be required to enter exhibition spaces during hours these facilities are open to the public, and docents and volunteers will not be recalled at facilities where NARA operates the volunteer program. We will not restart in-person public programs at this time.

We will reopen more exhibition spaces as local conditions improve and facilities demonstrate their readiness. We will carefully monitor the effectiveness of our new safety protocols and will make adjustments as needed. As we develop more experience operating exhibits in a post-COVID-19 environment, we will consider expanding the opening days and hours of these museums and additional, limited public openings at other NARA locations.

If you need support or assistance coping with the stress of the pandemic, please take advantage of the Employee Assistance Program (EAP). EAP services are free, confidential, and available to all NARA employees, supervisors, and family members. EAP counselors are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by telephone 24/7 at 1-800-222-0364 (TTY 1-888-262-7848) or online at [www.FOH4YOU.com](http://www.FOH4YOU.com). EAP information can also be found at the [NARA@work EAP page](#).

Thank you for your patience and flexibility as we continue on the journey to carefully restore our mission functions and operations.

DAVID S. FERRIERO  
Archivist of the United States

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**If you have questions on this notice, contact:**

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