

# NEWS RELEASE

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## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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## **Virginia Aquarium Closed but Still Caring Your Financial Gift Will Help**

(VIRGINIA BEACH, VA) – In the wake of an unprecedented time in our shared history, the Virginia Aquarium has temporarily closed its doors to guests. We are closed, but still caring: for our animals, for our staff, for our community, and for our mission. This means a change in how we operate and what we offer to our guests.

The good news is that we have more community resources available than ever before on our website.

Interested teachers, parents, and students can find that here:

<https://www.virginiaaquarium.com/visit/Pages/Community-Resources.aspx> From videos to virtual lessons, including supplemental materials, we have options sorted by every grade and age, including fun for families. Resources continue to be added, so please check back often.

The difficult news is with our closure, we currently have no source of revenue to offset our animal care expenses. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization (EIN: 52-1272309), we rely on ticket sales, Aquarium visits, memberships, education program fees, and gifts to operate. Being closed has a detrimental impact on our overall operating budget.

Your support is critical now more than ever. Gifts may be made online at

<https://www.virginiaaquarium.com/give/Pages/Closed-Caring.aspx> or by calling the Virginia Aquarium Development Office at 757-385-0260.

There are challenges ahead of us, but we will persevere. We are closed, but still caring: for our animals, for our staff, for our community, and for our mission.

*The Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center is an accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, and the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums. The Aquarium is also a member of World Association of Zoos and Aquariums. The Virginia Aquarium's mission is to inspire conservation of the marine environment through education, research and sustainable practices. It is located at 717 General Booth Boulevard, just south of Rudee Inlet in Virginia Beach.*

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