



MEDIA RELEASE

20 March 2020

More information

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Scitech to Temporarily Close Science Centre and Expand Digital Channels

Scitech has made the decision to temporarily close the Science Centre at City West from COB Friday 20 March. Given the sensible restrictions introduced around mass gatherings due to COVID-19, operating the Science Centre is no longer tenable. Since these measures have been implemented, a rapid decline in visitation has occurred.

Kalien Selby, Scitech Chief Executive Officer said, "Scitech is supportive of all measures introduced to contain the spread of COVID-19 and our number one priority is the safety and well-being of our visitors, staff and volunteers.

"Scitech is a well-loved destination for families and friends, and given the highly interactive nature of our exhibits, we believe this is the best way we can help protect our community, especially the most vulnerable among us. Unlike schools or universities, Scitech is a public space with visitors from all walks of life and age groups.

"At this time our commitment to providing exceptional STEM engagement for our loyal visitors and the broader community remains strong, and in the coming weeks we will be ramping up our ability to deliver innovative and contemporary STEM experiences through an expansion of our digital delivery channels.

"Scitech's new digital programs will feed STEM curiosity and inspiration online, beyond restrictions of time, place, bricks and mortar."

While all STEM engagement tours to regional towns and remote Aboriginal communities have currently been suspended, Scitech will continue to operate outreach programs into Perth metropolitan schools with risk assessment guidelines in place. Programs and shows have been adapted in accordance with guidelines around social distancing and safety.

Behind the scenes, Scitech will carry on with the development of the new feature exhibition 'Earth Matters' to be launched later this year. Other upgrades to gallery spaces within the Science Centre will also commence, ensuring a fresh and exciting space when the doors reopen at a future date.

For the majority of Scitech employees, there will be no immediate change to their employment status, and they will continue to work and inspire the community with STEM. A number of casual presenting staff will be impacted and Scitech will be supporting these employees with a relief package of 6-weeks pay. Steps will also be taken to explore opportunities for presenting staff to be involved in the creation of digital STEM content to support students, parents and educators both at school and at home.

Scitech will continue to closely monitor advice from the Australian and WA Government health departments to determine future developments and responses in this evolving situation.