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SENECA PARK ZOO ANNOUNCES NEW MASK GUIDELINES

Fully vaccinated guests will not be required to wear masks at Seneca Park Zoo.

May 20, 2021 - Monroe County Executive **Adam Bello** and Seneca Park Zoo have released new mask policies in response to the revised safety guidelines issued from the CDC and New York State. Fully vaccinated guests will not be required to wear masks outdoors at Seneca Park Zoo, but are encouraged to wear them at indoor exhibits. Visitors who are not fully vaccinated must continue to wear face coverings at this time, including children aged 3 – 11. Seneca Park Zoo also encourages following social distancing practices, the continued use of hand sanitization stations, and frequent washing of hands. Face coverings may still be required for participants in camps and other education programs, to ensure full compliance with CDC guidelines. Timed ticketing is still in place and we encourage guests, including members, to reserve a spot online.

“Like many other outdoor attractions and venues, the Seneca Park Zoo will no longer require fully vaccinated individuals from wearing a face covering while on Zoo grounds. Science has shown the effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccine, giving us confidence to allow those who are fully vaccinated to no longer wear a mask, particularly when outdoors. This is an important and significant step as we continue to reopen and return to pre-COVID life. However, we want everyone to be comfortable with their own decision, be respectful of others and understand the safety behind the science of the vaccine,” said Bello.

Monroe County Commissioner of Public Health, Dr. Michael Mendoza said “While many vaccinated parents may choose to model mask-wearing for their young children, this policy recognizes the effectiveness of the vaccine in preventing the spread of COVID-19. Visiting the Zoo is a very safe activity for families. Until the vaccine is approved for children under 11, however, parents still need to take

precautions. Your children should still wear masks and remain socially distant as much as possible. But remember, brief contact with an unmasked individual -- such as passing on the sidewalk -- will not put your child at risk."

Advance tickets are required and can be purchased online at <https://senecaparkzoo.org/tickets/>. Seneca Park Zoo is open every day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. with last entry at 4 p.m.

Internationally, and in our own backyard, Seneca Park Zoo plays a key role in species survival. Chartered as an educational institution in 1957 by New York State, the Seneca Park Zoo Society plays an integral role in supporting Monroe County, the owners and operators of the Zoo. Together, we are working to bring animals back from the brink of extinction.