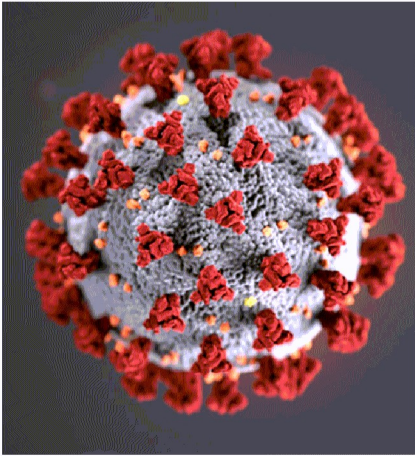


# Colonial Williamsburg News

COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG'S PEOPLE AND PROGRAMS  
Online at [http://intranet.cwf.org/CWNewsOnline\\_Archive.html](http://intranet.cwf.org/CWNewsOnline_Archive.html)

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## Colonial Williamsburg Closure Extended Through May 31

President and CEO Cliff Fleet announced on April 21 the difficult decision to extend operational closures through May 31, continuing measures taken in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

“I can only stress again how eager we remain to reopen and to bring people back to work, as soon as it is safely possible,” Fleet said in a message to employees. “I know we all agree, it cannot be soon enough.”

“In the meantime — thank you for standing with the Foundation as we continue to navigate these uncharted waters, and for your faith, sacrifices, patience and endless efforts to support each other and our community.”

The extended closure reflects the Foundation’s top goal of limiting health risks to employees, volunteers, guests and the wider community while observing government guidance to limit the pandemic’s impact. At the time of the announcement, orders closing nonessential businesses and barring gatherings of 10 or more people stood through May 8 while a statewide stay-at-home order first issued March 30 was extended to June 10.

“There’s no denying these are difficult and uncertain times. But it is an honor to work with you, now more than ever. We will all get through this, together,” Fleet added.

Since announcing initial closures on March 14, operational decisions have been made on a month-to-month basis while working to limit impacts on employees.

Colonial Williamsburg has not gone quiet during the closure, Fleet noted.

Absent interpretive programming and guest impacts, the Foundation’s architectural preservation, Historic Trades and operations staffs have shifted to conduct priority maintenance and beautification projects throughout the Historic Area.

The culinary team’s preparation and donation of more than 2,000 meals each week to community members in need will continue through May. An expanded digital initiative generated more than 9 million social impressions during the first month of the closure, an increase of 63 percent over the prior month. And new protocols and site enhancements are being developed to limit health risks when public sites reopen.

The pandemic’s impact on Colonial Williamsburg is perhaps felt most among members of the organization’s Hospitality team. Furloughs were announced on March 25 when the Foundation decided to close most of the hotels and food and beverage outlets, and additional team members are now subject to furlough after a period of emergency administrative leave with pay through May 9.

“Furloughing any staff is a painful decision I deeply regret having to make,” Fleet said. “I, and the entire leadership team, wish we could avoid causing so many people to shoulder such sacrifices, despite all their good work and dedication.”

Colonial Williamsburg will continue to maintain health insurance coverage and other benefits for covered furloughed staff and continues to waive rent for furloughed staff residing in Colonial Williamsburg housing.

Fleet encouraged furloughed staff who have not already applied for unemployment insurance benefits to do so as soon as possible through the Virginia Employment Commission at [www.vec.virginia.gov](http://www.vec.virginia.gov).

Scaled pay cuts remain in place for the Foundation’s salaried employees while hourly staff telecommuting, working on-site or on emergency administrative leave will continue to receive full pay and benefits through this additional month of closure.

“With this plan, we can continue pursuing our mission while also making sure we are ready to open as soon as we safely can,” Fleet said.



*Since the closure of hotels and taverns in the Historic Area, meals prepared by Colonial Williamsburg’s culinary team have been delivered to organizations that serve community members in need.*



## Helping Those in Need

Hospitality team and volunteers put culinary skills to work

Colonial Williamsburg’s culinary team does not slow down, even for a pandemic. With hospitality operations reduced dramatically due to COVID-19, the team is working with community partners to provide key local social service agencies enough meals to ensure clients do not go hungry amid the crisis.

The result: more than 2,000 free meals donated locally each week, including an additional 900 hot holiday meals – each serving a family of at least four – distributed on Easter Sunday.

“We’re just trying to give resources back to the community that’s been so gracious to Colonial Williamsburg,” said Williamsburg Lodge Executive Chef Justin Addison. “The whole team is very proud of what we’re doing for the community, and we know people who are receiving the food, and they’re very grateful.”

The initiative supplies a network of community social services providers and supporting organizations, in particular three local organizations that deliver free meals to those in need: Williamsburg Area Meals on Wheels, the Williamsburg House of Mercy and the Village: The Initiative for Equity in Education.

The effort also relies on partners that support distribution of meals to the delivery agencies. They include New Zion Baptist Church, the Tri-County Pastors Association, Empowered Believers Christian Learning Center, Williamsburg-James City County Schools and First Baptist Church.

Colonial Williamsburg’s meal donation effort started in late March with a small complement of employees and employee volunteers who began preparing and distributing meals. At first the effort drew in part on Foundation supplies at risk of waste amid the closure of table-service dining operations due to government restrictions.

Within a week, various community partners stepped forward to contribute, with both time and food donations. They include the Williamsburg Area Restaurant Association, Robinhood Provisions LLC of Ashland, Virginia, and local restaurants such as Axe Republic, Blue Talon Bistro, Fat Canary, Waypoint Seafood & Grill and the Whaling Company.

The additional support means the effort, originally scheduled to continue through April 10, will continue at least through May 31.

Day to day, several Food and Beverage team employees work on the project, com-



plemented by a rotation of approximately 10 volunteers.

Those numbers swelled on Easter morning when close to 30 volunteers, most of them Foundation employees as well as state Sen. Monty Mason, Williamsburg City Manager Andrew Trivette and Connie Harshaw, president of First Baptist Church’s Let Freedom Ring Foundation, gathered at the Lodge to package hot meals of turkey, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables and bread. Meals on Wheels volunteers distributed the meals from the Williamsburg Hellenic Center on Mooretown Road.

“We spent most of the afternoon at the Hellenic Center passing out meals with Meals on Wheels, and the response from meal recipients was very emotional,” said Anna Cordle Harry, Colonial Williamsburg’s community affairs manager. “There were lots of tears and appreciation for what CW is doing.”

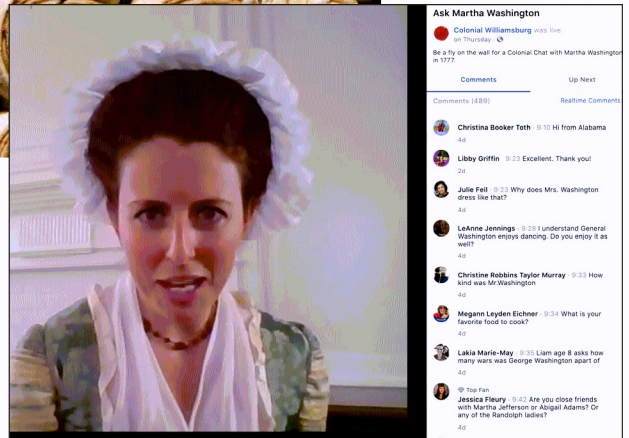
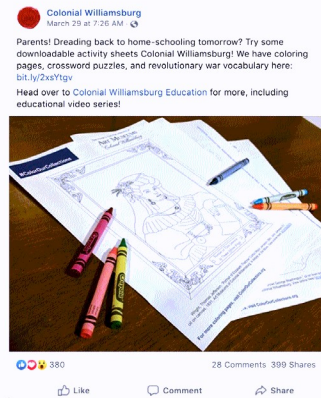
So many meals were available Easter Sunday that extras were delivered to Sentara Williamsburg Regional Medical Center and to Riverside Doctors’ Hospital Williamsburg for employees working on the holiday.

# Using Technology to Tell Our 18th-Century Story

Foundation programming and research reach audiences through virtual visits powered by digital content

## How To Make Chelsea Buns

BY HISTORIC FOODWAYS | January 22, 2020 | 5 Minute Read



The March closure of the Foundation’s sites made it seem for a moment that Colonial Williamsburg would go quiet for the first time in its 94-year history.

But within hours, teams across the Foundation mobilized to leverage 21st-century technology to reach fans and new audiences online with 18th-century living-history programming.

“Our teams rapidly made a major pivot in terms of how we present our museum to our public and moved a mountain, because it is forever going to change how we present the story of our 18th-century community,” said Beth Kelly, vice president for Education, Research and Historical Interpretation and head of the new digital programming initiative.



The expanded digital outreach effort followed the launch days before of the Foundation’s redesigned website: [colonialwilliamsburg.org](http://colonialwilliamsburg.org). The new site resulted from months of collaborative effort guided by the Foundation’s IT and marketing departments, which includes the social media team that coordinates content for Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

On the first day of the closure, Colonial Williamsburg created the new “Explore from Home” section on the website to provide a one-stop shop of virtual content. The section was initially built with existing resources assembled for a range of audiences: curriculum resources for teachers and home educators from the Bob and Marion Wilson Teacher Institute of Colonial Williamsburg, a Stamp Act interactive timeline, how-to craft videos and even coloring pages based on iconic objects from the Foundation’s collections.

Audiences sought new content, and Foundation interpreters and other experts were eager to create it. New offerings include live video streams of historical interpreters; presentations by Historic Trades staff, curators, conservators and staff from the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library, as well as the archaeology and architectural research teams; and a 360-degree virtual tour of the Governor’s Palace.

A first for Colonial Williamsburg came in April: a new streaming television channel free with Amazon Fire TV and Roku TV accounts, providing another way to access digital content.

“We’re trying to make this content as available as possible, understanding that some people are not into social media or don’t use certain platforms,” said Carol Gillam, senior digital marketing manager.

The second week of April, Colonial Williamsburg’s new Facebook live videos reached more than 115,000 viewers, and visits to Colonial Williamsburg’s website from social media posts had more than doubled.

“I think what we have discovered is that our audience wants to stay in touch and be part of Colonial Williamsburg’s mission, whether that is being on-site or virtually while carrying on with their lives at home,” said Ken Treese, manager of interpretation and professional development.

Colonial Williamsburg is also exploiting sites less associated with guest engagement like LinkedIn.

“LinkedIn is going to help position our staff as thought leaders,” Gillam said. “It’s also a good way to share industry accolades, such as the Inn’s 5-star and 5-diamond ratings, and that we are a great place to work and a leader in our industry.”

Kelly said that the Foundation’s on-site experience will remain its top priority but that virtual content will likewise remain a priority to maximize Colonial Williamsburg’s reach.

“Obviously the on-site experience is the premium experience — and the one that we want everyone to come and enjoy,” Kelly said. “But if we can reach someone at home or on a mobile device who did not know about the scope of our work, or who could not afford to visit, and we can get them interested in what we do and interested in understanding the importance of our 18th-century community, then we’ve done our job as museum professionals.”

Colonial Williamsburg  
March 29 at 9:40 AM · 🌐

While we may not be able to offer in-person tours of the archaeology lab, Jack Gary, Director of Archaeology at Colonial Williamsburg, is here to introduce you to the artifacts uncovered during the 1964 excavation at Custis Square!

Learn more about the current Custis Square excavation here: [bit.ly/2vVdqHy](http://bit.ly/2vVdqHy)



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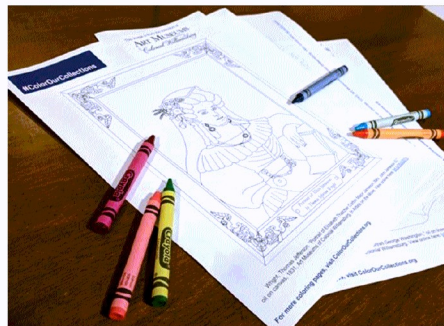
👍 Like      💬 Comment      ➦ Share

*Social media platforms, including Facebook, have been used to feature videos that take viewers behind the scenes, and projects to capture the imagination of children.*

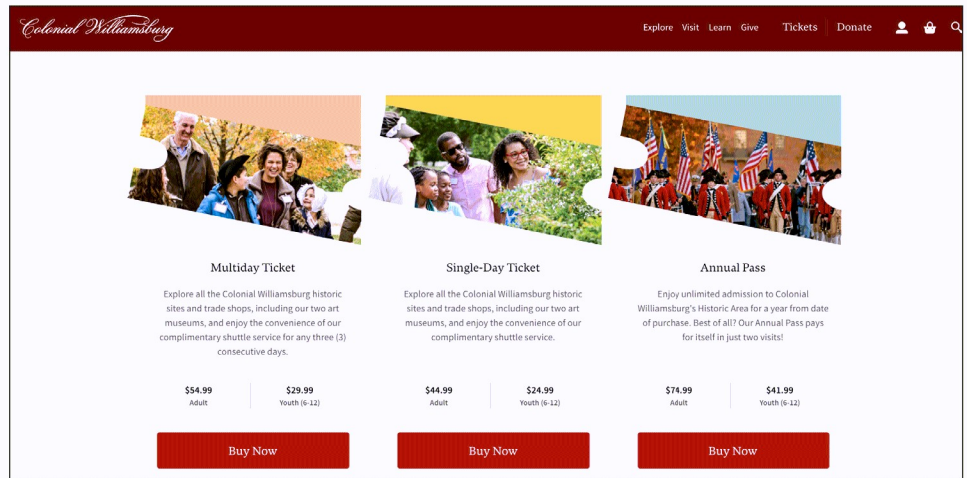
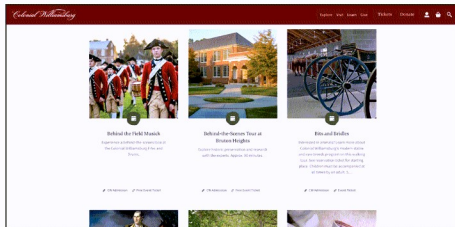
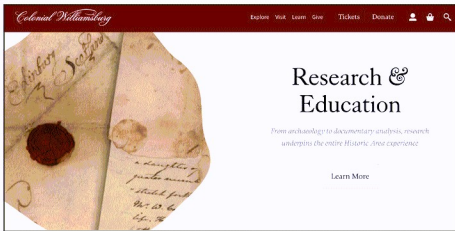
Colonial Williamsburg  
March 29 at 7:26 AM · 🌐

Parents! Dreading back to home-schooling tomorrow? Try some downloadable activity sheets Colonial Williamsburg! We have coloring pages, crossword puzzles, and revolutionary war vocabulary here: [bit.ly/2xsYtgV](http://bit.ly/2xsYtgV)

Head over to [Colonial Williamsburg Education](http://ColonialWilliamsburgEducation.com) for more, including educational video series!



*Social media platforms, including Facebook, have been used to feature videos that take viewers behind the scenes, and projects to capture the imagination of children.*



The Foundation's redesigned website, [colonialwilliamsburg.org](http://colonialwilliamsburg.org), offers compelling educational content and new ways for guests to plan their visit.

## A Redesigned Website

Putting the Foundation's online families under one roof

The launch of Colonial Williamsburg's new website, [colonialwilliamsburg.org](http://colonialwilliamsburg.org), comes after more than a year of brainstorming to develop its look, feel and function. The new site merges and improves upon two legacy websites, [history.org](http://history.org) and [colonialwilliamsburg.com](http://colonialwilliamsburg.com).

Emily Bollinger, project manager; Carol Gillam, senior digital marketing manager; and Carson Reeher, senior web producer, led the effort with the help of staff members from throughout The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and the Colonial Williamsburg Company.

The result is a website that combines the educational content of [history.org](http://history.org) and the transactional capabilities of [colonialwilliamsburg.com](http://colonialwilliamsburg.com). The mobile-friendly site is more user-friendly and allows website visitors to easily donate to the Foundation, dig into rich educational content, and buy and redeem tickets online. Its aesthetics evoke the Historic Area, even using a font that closely resembles the one used in the Printing Office.

A new easy-to-use content management system allows Drew Winfree, software engineer, to deploy updates far more frequently and Reeher to post pages and make changes with ease.

That agility has helped over the past month with the Foundation's focus on digital engagement during the closure due to COVID-19, which was announced less than a week after the new site launched on March 11. As the Foundation ramps up its social media presence and online offerings, the new website is well-suited to house content being produced for platforms like Facebook and Instagram along with everything the website already has to offer.

"Colonialwilliamsburg.org is a central location, a central hub to house all of this really great content," Gillam said.

Colonial Williamsburg took its first step toward developing a new website when it launched a landing page in January 2019 that used the same URL as the new website and directed guests to choose their own path to find the content they sought. Chad Corman, IT manager of strategy and architecture, began working with Richmond-based software design and development company Mobelux a couple of years ago to plan and implement the redesign.

Corman polled each area of the organization to brainstorm what it would like to see in a new website that both serves the group's needs and creates a more guest-friendly online experience.

Bollinger joined the project in July, working closely with Mobelux as the company developed the site's content management system, which will save the Foundation about \$100,000 per year by using Wagtail, a free open-source solution.



Reeher started building individual pages in November, working with Gillam to consult content developers in various departments around the Foundation. Archaeologists, historians, architectural historians, tradespeople and other staff members developed content to support the site, and a team led by Peter Inker, director of historical research and digital history, organized content for a special feature on the Stamp Act that may serve as a template for similar content.

The site has 952 pages, several hundred of which are automatically generated by the Foundation’s Event Management System for each of the listings in the events calendar. Reeher manually built every other page.

Reeher and Gillam leaned heavily on Erin Lopater, associate registrar of imaging, to provide the appropriate imagery for the Art Museums pages. Allison Gaul, development planning and production manager, helped integrate Abila, the system that takes donations, into the website. Sarah Lockwood, content marketing manager, kept a close eye on the events calendar elements to ensure a smooth guest experience.

“Working with so many people across the Foundation was a huge challenge, but it turned out to be the most rewarding part of the project,” Bollinger said. “We got a tremendous website out of it, and we really helped build relationships across departments that are going to help us be more successful working together in the future.”

**The website team welcomes comments and suggestions on the new website. Go to this link to offer feedback: [cmsrequest.cwf.org](http://cmsrequest.cwf.org).**



*Aislinn Lewis, a journeyman blacksmith, paints a fence at the Roscow Cole House, following recommended COVID-19 safety precautions.*

## Closure Doesn’t Stop Critical Maintenance

A quiet Historic Area has given Colonial Williamsburg’s Architectural Preservation, Operations and Historic Trades teams a chance to tackle critical maintenance projects typically reserved for January or requiring special site closures.

While following COVID-19 safety protocols to protect against spread of infection, the teams have nearly finished the complete replacement of the Shields Tavern roof, and replacement of the Prentis Store roof will follow. Masonry preservation work has been completed at Market Square Tavern, Shields, and the Custis Kitchen and will start shortly on the Capitol wall.

Several exterior painting projects are nearing completion, including Chowning’s Tavern, the Grissell Hay Lodging House, the Nicholas-Tyler Office, Laundry and well, the William Pitt Store and the Ludwell-Paradise House.

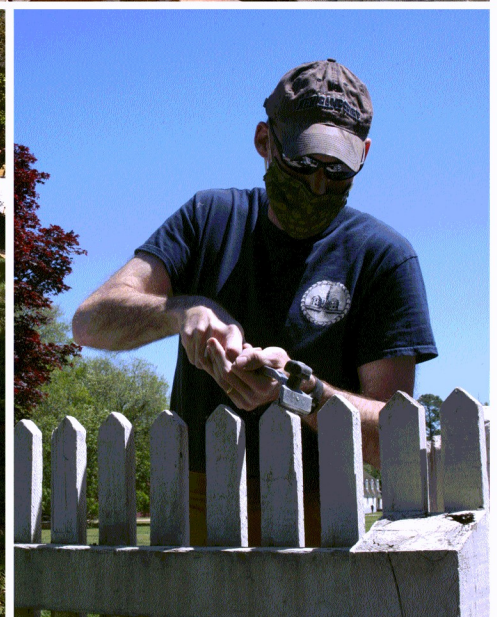


Tar painting is being conducted at the Market House, bus stops, Peyton Randolph House outbuildings and the Gateway building. This task is especially difficult with sites open because the tar tends to drip from surfaces.

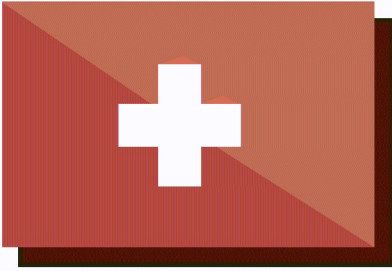
Interior painting projects include the Pasteur & Galt Apothecary Shop, Shields Tavern, the St. George Tucker House and galleries in the expanded Art Museums.

Historic Trades staff are assisting operations and preservation by working in various areas:

- The carpenter, joiner, cooper and wheelwright staff are conducting fence repair.
- The blacksmith is producing hardware, including latches and hinges.
- The masonry trades are repairing brick walkways.
- The joiners and cabinetmakers are working in the modern millwork shop assisting with the fabrication of benches.



*(Top): Isaac Hyde, a journeyman mason, tackles chimney work at Shields Tavern. (Bottom row, from left): Karen Clancy, manager of Historic Trades, trades her weaver's loom for a paint brush; Annie Welch, a journeyman weaver, puts some muscle to her task; and Rob Welch, an apprentice shoemaker, sands a fence at the Roscow Cole House.*



# Coronavirus: Your Health Benefits

A few reminders about health options available to Anthem and Optima Health members.

## Anthem

Anthem has several new resources and initiatives developed in partnership with leading community and health partners to provide support for the whole health needs of individuals and families.

*These resources include:*

**COVID-19 Mental Health Resource Hub** Anthem has joined with [Psych Hub](#), a free digital hub to help members with the stress resulting from COVID-19. This hub brings together a variety of resources to help members cope with social isolation, job loss and mental health issues.

**Aunt Bertha Partnership** Anthem has partnered with [Aunt Bertha](#), a leading social-care network that helps connect individuals and families to free and reduced-cost social services in their communities. Members can access these resources by visiting [anthem.com/coronavirus/](http://anthem.com/coronavirus/) or by downloading Sydney Care on their mobile devices, and entering their zip code.

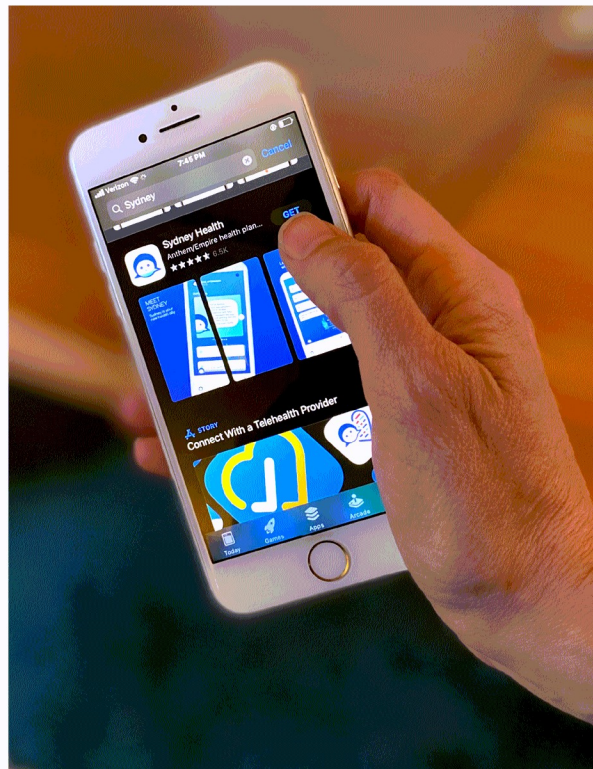
**Additional Employee Assistance program (EAP) Resources** To help Anthem members who need mental health support, access to Anthem’s EAP website resources is being offered **at no cost** for 90 days to members who don’t already have access. Members can go to the [EAP website](#) to access online seminars on emotional support and up-to-date links to news outlets and health websites. Other resources include helpful articles, child and eldercare resources, and legal and financial information. Members can access the website using the following password: EAP Can Help

**Locate a COVID-19 testing facility** Anthem members can locate a COVID-19 testing facility near them with our locator tool by [downloading the Sydney Care mobile app](#).

**Testing and Care Benefits** Anthem members’ costs, including copays, coinsurance and deductibles, are waived for diagnostic testing related to COVID-19 as well as for the in-network visit associated with COVID-19 testing, whether it takes place at a doctor’s office, urgent care center or emergency room.

**Telehealth** Anthem’s telehealth provider, LiveHealth Online, is a safe and effective way for members to receive medical guidance related to COVID-19 from their homes using a smartphone, tablet or computer with a webcam. LiveHealth Online is offered to you with no copay as a plan benefit.

**Check Symptoms** The free Sydney Care mobile app features a tool to help patients







quickly understand their risk for COVID-19. Sydney Care is available to download on Android or iOS.

**Medication** Early prescription refill limits via IngenioRx will be relaxed for members who would like to receive a 30-day supply of maintenance medications.

For the latest Anthem information on COVID-19, go to <https://www.anthem.com/ca/coronavirus/>

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## A COVID-19 Q&A with Optima Health

**Q:** *In addition to waiving costs for telehealth visits related to COVID-19, is Optima Health also waiving costs for diagnostic testing?*

**A:** Yes, Optima Health is also waiving out-of-pocket member costs associated with COVID-19 diagnostic testing at any in-network lab location.

**Q:** *At what providers will the virtual visit costs be waived?*

**A:** Member costs for virtual visits will be waived for the next 90 days through in-network virtual care partners MDLive and Sentara Medical Group.

**Q:** *Does the handling of the COVID-19 virus screening affect my health savings account (HSA) eligibility?*

**A:** Optima Health is handling the COVID-19 testing as a preventive care for infectious diseases screening. The IRS code provides a safe harbor that lets HSA-qualified high-deductible health plans (HDHPs) waive deductibles for preventative care benefits without jeopardizing a participant's HSA eligibility. Optima Health and its partners are actively working with the government on clarity of any potential impact to members' health plans and HSA eligibility.

**Pharmacy Benefits** Optima Health has implemented pharmacy benefits changes to help make sure members have access to their necessary prescription medications while limiting the possibility of COVID-19 exposure.

**Early Refills** If members need extra medication, they can talk to their pharmacy about filling their prescription early. Members will be responsible for their standard cost share. For the safety of our members, members or their pharmacy must call for an override to refill an opioid prescription early.

**90-Day Refills** Optima Health allows members to fill 90-day supplies of medication at most retail pharmacies and by mail order. If members don't have a prescription for a 90-day supply, they can talk to their physician to see if a 90-day supply would work for them.

**Home Delivery Option** Our mail-order pharmacy can deliver 90-day supplies of medications to members' homes. Visit [optimahealth.com/members/manage-plans/prescription-home-delivery](https://optimahealth.com/members/manage-plans/prescription-home-delivery) for more information on how to sign up for home delivery.

For more information about COVID-19 coverage: [optimahealth.com/coronavirus](https://optimahealth.com/coronavirus)



# COVID-19 Cancellations and Postponements

The following is a list of the major Colonial Williamsburg events that have been cancelled or postponed due to restrictions imposed because of the spread of the coronavirus.

All events scheduled for April and early May that were tied to the opening of the **expanded Art Museums**, including the donor gala and community open house, have been postponed. New dates have not yet been announced.

The PBS *Antiques Roadshow* has postponed its 2020 tour, which had been scheduled to stop in Colonial Williamsburg's Historic Area on April 28. Filming in the Historic Area has been rescheduled for Sept. 27–29. Original ticketing for admission as well as item appraisal will be honored on these new dates. No new tickets will be issued. Employees should direct show-related questions to *Antiques Roadshow* at [pbs.org/antiques](https://pbs.org/antiques) or 888-762-3749.

**Mr. Jefferson's Palace Garden Party**, originally scheduled for May 1 to celebrate the spring season, has been rescheduled for Friday, Oct. 2, when guests can enjoy the equally beautiful colors of autumn.

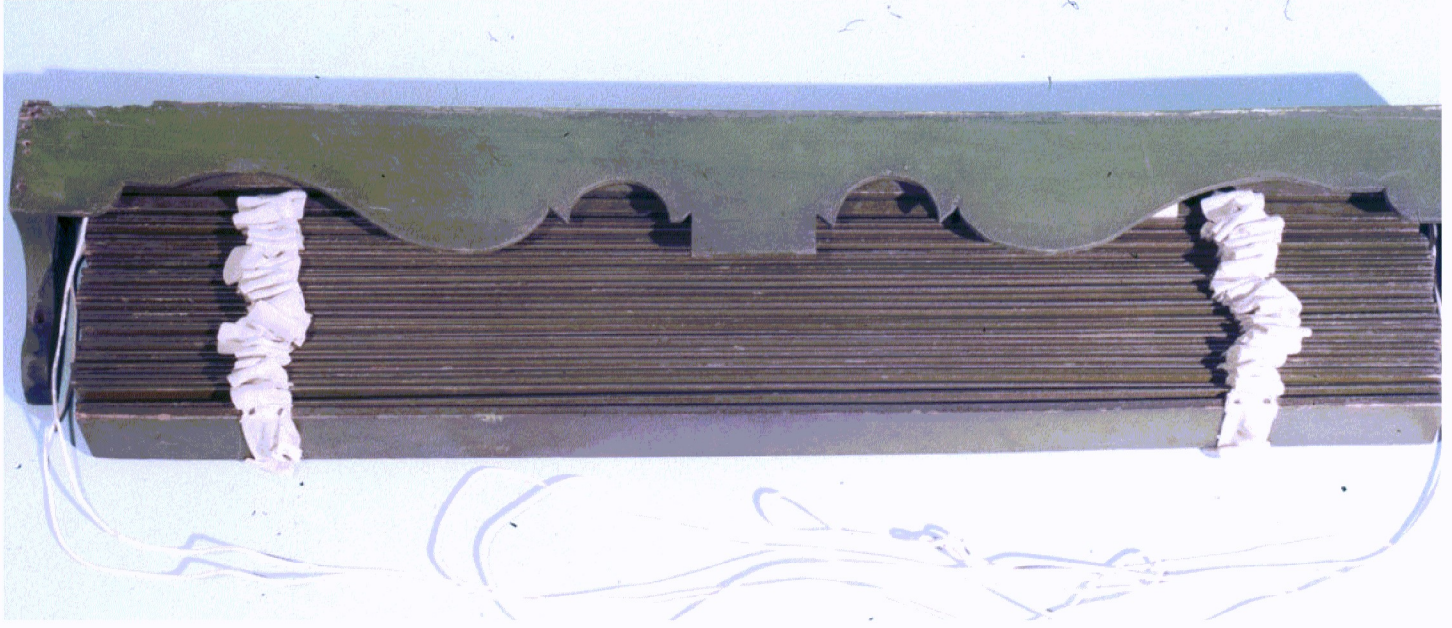
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services canceled the June 15 **Naturalization Ceremony** due to health risks associated with group gatherings. Planning continues for the Foundation's annual December naturalization ceremony.

To avoid nonessential travel, grants from the **Mary and Donald Gonzales Field Experience Fund** will not be awarded this spring. Any employee who submitted an application for the spring and who would like the request carried over for consideration in the fall should send a new hard copy application with all required signatures via interoffice mail to Joe Poole, Bruton Heights School. If you applied for the spring but are not going to reapply for the fall, please email [jpoole@cwf.org](mailto:jpoole@cwf.org).

**Good Neighbor Passes, Annual Passes, Virginia Resident Passes and Art Museums** member passes that were valid during the closure period can be extended beyond the expiration date to compensate for the length of the closure. Once we reopen, pass holders and members may visit any ticketing location to have their passes reissued with the new extended valid date.



*The Historic Area closed most public buildings in March, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Colonial Williamsburg looks forward to welcoming guests to the Historic Area when it is deemed safe to return.*



These green venetian blinds are part of the Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg's collection.

## If These Walls Could Talk: Venetian Blinds

by Amanda C. Keller,  
Associate Curator, Historic Interiors

One of the most common questions posed when I give tours in our exhibition buildings is why venetian blinds are attached to every window.

The short answer is light control. The venetian blinds in Wetherburn's Tavern, for example, protect the antiques and reproductions from ultraviolet light damage. For the past few years, our Architectural Preservation team has applied a new UV film to the windowpanes during closings for building maintenance, but it will take considerable time before every building has the new film applied, and the venetian blinds continue to be used for light protection. Even when the work is complete, many of the blinds will remain.

Many visitors are amazed to learn that venetian blinds were installed in homes and other buildings in the late 18th century and were sold and used here in Williamsburg.

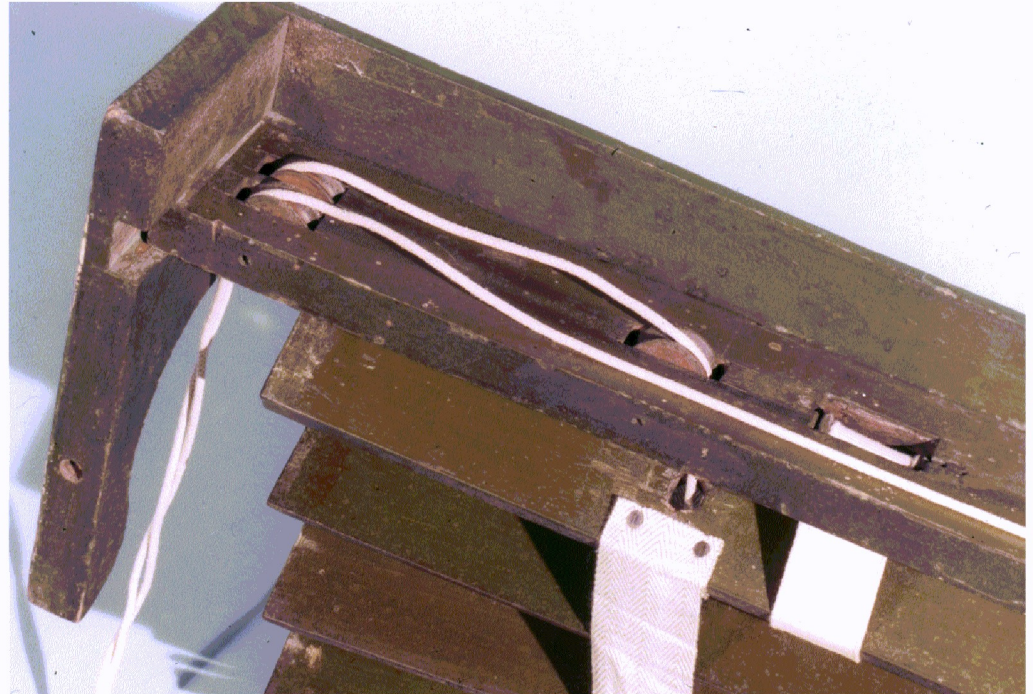
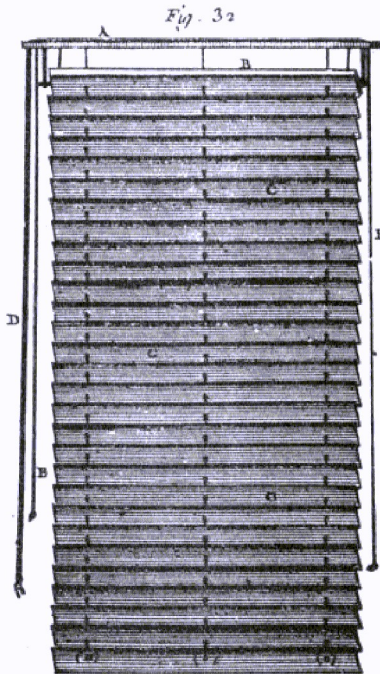
*Virginia Gazette* advertisements make clear that venetian blinds were considered an innovation to keep houses cooler and provide privacy.

For example, Joshua Kendall, a Williamsburg house carpenter and joiner, advertised in Rind's Jan. 18, 1770, *Virginia Gazette* that he "also makes and carves CHIMNEY PIECES of wood, as ornaments to any Gentleman's apartments; and likewise makes the best and newest invented *Venetian* SUN BLINDS for windows, that move to any position so as to give different lights, they screen from the scorching rays of the sun, draw up as a curtain, prevent being overlooked, give a cool refreshing air in hot weather, and are the greatest preservatives of furniture of any thing of the kind ever invented."

Venetian blinds also began appearing on 18th-century Williamsburg probate inventories.

Lt. Gov. Francis Fauquier's estate included four window blinds that were later purchased for Lord Botetourt's use in the Governor's Palace. Botetourt's inventory in October 1770 listed venetian blinds in the front parlor, the dining room, the ballroom, the library and a closet. And the probate inventory taken in 1771 for Anthony Hay, a tavern keeper at the Raleigh Tavern, included two venetian blinds.

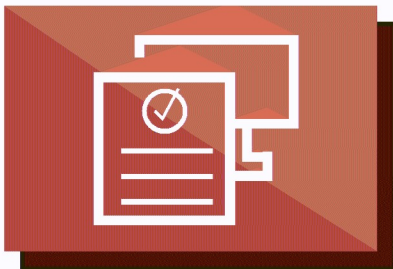
People often assume venetian blinds are a relatively modern invention. But early forms were used in ancient Egypt, and they were found in the Pompei excavations. The blinds were used in medieval Italy and 13th-century Spain. They may have been introduced to Europe from the Venetian trade with the East, thus the name.



*This diagram (above) shows a 1785 example of a venetian blind. A closer look at the underside of the blind in Colonial Williamsburg’s collection (right) shows the cords that control the 28 slats.*

The slats of ancient venetian blinds were stationary. In 1757, a Parisian craftsman, Lebeuf, advertised the addition of tapes and cords to adjust the slats to various angles and to raise and lower them to the desired height. Cords were tied off on cloak pins that were fitted into the wooden window to secure the blinds when they had been raised or lowered. In the mid-19th century, a mechanism replaced the cloak pins.

Venetian blinds became popular in England about the middle of the 18th century and were soon adopted by wealthy householders in the colonies. Employed in shop windows, offices, homes, churches, public buildings and even carriages, venetian blinds could be ordered from England or purchased locally. They are an interesting way to connect our modern tastes in furnishings with those of the past. But their purpose remains largely the same in the Historic Area as it was 250 years ago: to protect valuable furnishings from the scorching rays of the sun and help keep interiors cooler in the hot summer months.



## CW in the News

During March, Colonial Williamsburg’s response to the coronavirus pandemic dominated the local and state news coverage of Colonial Williamsburg. But the Foundation was also mentioned in reminders about online opportunities regarding art, entertainment and education. In several publications that offered stay-at-home educational and recreational ideas, resources from Colonial Williamsburg were mentioned prominently.

An article in *Travel & Leisure* magazine touted Color Our Collections, which offers free downloads of coloring pages created from the art of 117 institutions, including Colonial Williamsburg. This information also found its way onto the pages of *People* magazine, **Yahoo Entertainment**, **Live Science**, **MSN.com** and even the *Lusk Herald* in Wyoming.

*The Epoch Times*, an independent and multilanguage publication, cited colonialwilliamsburg.org in an article titled “Armchair Culture: There’s No Need to Isolate Yourself from Great Art and History” as a good beginning for learning more about early American history. This timely reminder came on the heels of the launch of the redesigned website.



CW’s website was also in the news for its creation of online visits during the closure. Colonial Williamsburg’s [Explore from Home](#) online content features video visits with interpreters, classroom lessons and interactive web activities on American history, along with recipes and crafts. In addition to local and state newspaper coverage of this initiative, Colonial Williamsburg’s online tours also received attention from websites catering to parents and teachers. **CNN Underscored** was among the outlets that touted the content.

In addition, there was considerable local coverage of Colonial Williamsburg’s community outreach efforts, including making 2,000 meals a week and delivering them to families in need through the help of local partners such as Meals on Wheels and the Village Initiative. *The Virginia Gazette*, *WYDaily*, **WAVY-TV**, **WVEC** and **WTKR** are among the media that disseminated stories.

Finally, [Forbes.com](#) told its readers that the newly expanded Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg would be ready to greet visitors when the Historic Area is able to reopen.

Also featured:

Helmut Otto Guenschel, called the “veritable Picasso of museum display cases,” was memorialized in [The Baltimore Sun](#) on March 21. The obituary listed the clientele for the legendary woodworker, including New York’s Metropolitan Museum of Art, the National Gallery in Washington, D.C., and the Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg.

The [New York Amsterdam News](#) published a profile of Edith Cumbo as brought to life by Emily James.

[Richmond Magazine](#) chronicled the evolution of the Foundation’s licensing of products.

[Archaeology](#) offered its readers insight into the dig that explores John Custis IV’s 18th-century gardens.

In an interview in [Veranda](#), an Alabama homeowner revealed how the George Wythe House influenced her decorating decisions.

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## In Case You Missed It

- A website for Colonial Williamsburg employees, [emergency.cwf.org](http://emergency.cwf.org), provides valuable information about the closure of the Foundation, telework help, a link to the building logging system and other information pertaining to COVID-19.
- All formal Human Resources training has been postponed until further notice. Please see the training calendar on the intranet for more information.
- The Benefits Office is currently operating at limited capacity. If you need assistance, please send correspondence to [benefits@cwf.org](mailto:benefits@cwf.org) and allow a minimum of 72 hours for a response.
- The Williamsburg Lodge is offering curbside pickup and to-go options. A 25% discount is available when employees order [Curbside at Sweet Tea & Barley](#) or [To-Go at Cupboard](#).

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