



Society of Vertebrate Paleontology

7918 Jones Branch Drive, Suite 300

McLean, VA 22102

Phone: (301) 634-7024 Fax: (703) 506-3266

Email: svp@vertpaleo.org Web: www.vertpaleo.org

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SVP STATEMENT ON CORONAVIRUS

We wanted to share a brief message regarding the emerging public health concerns posed by the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). We are closely monitoring updates from local and national public health authorities regarding the situation in communities where cases of the virus have been confirmed.

In this time of uncertainty, it's important to monitor updates and news from reputable sources. SVP is looking to three major reputable health organizations to provide guidance on events and activities during this period:

- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- **World Health Organization (WHO)**
<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public>
- **European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control**
<https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/novel-coronavirus-china>

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is working with state and local governments to implement aggressive measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. In addition, there are several easy steps that we can all take to help minimize the risk of exposure. These are the same basic steps we should be taking every day to help prevent the spread of illnesses such as the flu and the common cold:

- Wash your hands frequently. Keeping hands clean through improved hand hygiene is one of the most important steps we can take to avoid getting sick and spreading germs to others. In addition, having hand sanitizer readily available is always a good idea.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve, not your hands. Put your used tissue in a waste basket immediately and wash your hands after coughing or sneezing.
- Follow the recommendations of your home country with respect to self-isolating after travel or appearance of symptoms, and restrictions on travel.

While we all hope that the COVID-19 crisis will be behind us by October, we recognize the possibility that it could greatly impact SVP's ability to execute our planned Annual Meeting in Cincinnati. To address this, SVP's leadership is working hand in hand with staff and the host committee and program chairs to engage in scenario planning. Our aim is to deliver the annual meeting in some format, ideally in person, with the potential for virtual elements. We encourage you therefore to please go ahead and submit your abstract. Note that we've added an option to the abstract submission site for you to indicate your willingness to present

virtually, should that be the format. We will continue to monitor the evolving COVID-19 crisis and potential impacts on the meeting. At this juncture, we simply don't know what the best solution for SVP and our membership is, but we are committed to keeping you informed as we navigate through this evolving situation together. The award and abstract submission deadlines have been moved to April 29, 2020 and May 14, 2020, respectively, and we now plan to open attendee registration on June 1.

We will of course continue to provide updates as the situation develops and new information becomes available.