

Public Health Emergency Patron Behavior Policy

Public Health Emergency Addendum to Patron Behavior Policy

June 26, 2020

This policy is in force until further notice and is subject to change.

This policy follows the guidance of the Governor of NH and CDC to protect the health and safety of our patrons and staff.

I. ENACTMENT

This policy is established by the Board of Library Trustees in accordance with RSA 202-A:6, authorizing the Board of Library Trustees to manage library property. These policies shall be in addition to, and shall not invalidate, any pre-existing policies of the library. All persons entering the library shall be required to adhere to all library policies. To the extent that these policies may be contrary or inconsistent with any pre-existing policies of the library, this policy shall govern.

II. PURPOSE AND ENFORCEMENT

Policies regarding the health and safety of the staff and the public will be strictly enforced. The library asks for the patience and respect of all patrons. Anyone who does not adhere to library policies will be asked to leave the premises. Persons refusing to leave the premises are trespassing, and law enforcement will be contacted.

III. SAFETY PARAMETERS AND LIMITATIONS

1. The library will enforce social distancing by limiting the number of people inside the library, limiting entrance and egress to certain doors, setting physical distance parameters for waiting areas, and limiting children's attendance at the library. The library director is authorized and delegated the responsibility of establishing these limits, which shall be established based on the mandates or advice of public health officials. Such parameters will be posted throughout the library.
2. Those both inside the library and in the designated waiting areas on the library grounds must observe at least 6 feet of physical distance from others. Physical distancing guides will be posted throughout the library.
3. While social distancing is being enforced, minors' access to the library may be limited.
4. The library will require the use of a face covering for all those entering the library, to protect staff and public from infection. Face coverings are available to those who do not bring

their own, but due to the limited supply of face coverings, individuals are encouraged to bring their own face coverings.

5. The library encourages [EAM1] the use of hand sanitizer on entry to the library and throughout a patron's visit to the library. The library will provide hand sanitizer at entry. Patrons are also strongly encouraged to frequently wash their hands using soap and water for twenty seconds or more (sing "Happy Birthday" twice).

6. Library patrons shall limit their handling of materials in the collection to prevent the spread of the virus[EAM2] .

7. The library has protective screens at all service areas. Those receiving services must stay behind the screen at the service desk.

8. Patrons experiencing symptoms of illness, or those with known exposure to COVID-19 may not enter the library. Patrons showing signs of illness will be required to leave the building. Patrons experiencing illness, or who have had exposure to COVID-19, may not check out physical materials from the library until their quarantine period has passed.

9. The use of reusable bags in the library has been suspended until further notice. Patrons are encouraged to leave such bags in their vehicles.

10. Social distancing and crowd limits will be enforced in the library parking lot and on the library grounds as required by public health officials. The grounds and parking lot remain available for WIFI access.

Those unable to comply with these policies are strongly encouraged to use curbside services or to contact library staff to obtain alternative accommodations.

IV. ASSUMPTION OF RISK

While the Board of Library Trustees takes all safety guidelines and precautions seriously and will ensure that all action to make the library as safe and as sanitary as possible is taken, patrons should understand that it is not possible to guarantee that the library is free from infectious disease. Those frequenting the library during the COVID-19 pandemic do so at their own risk and in recognition that, in entering the library, there is an unavoidable risk of contracting an infectious disease. Therefore, in entering the library, patrons shall be deemed to have voluntarily assumed the risk of contracting an infectious disease and shall not hold the library or the Town responsible in the event the patron contracts an infectious disease.

V. SEVERABILITY

In the event that any provision of these policies is deemed unlawful or unenforceable, the other provisions of this policy shall remain in full force and effect.

This policy is effective this 26th day of June, 2020.

[EAM1] This will (a) be difficult to enforce and (b) may subject the Town to liability. Not all people can use standard hand sanitizers, i.e. people with psoriasis, which can be aggravated by certain hand sanitizers.

[EAM2] How would this be accomplished? How would this be enforced?