



Approved by the Board of Directors – April 12, 2022

## **Covid-19 Mitigation Measures – April 2022 (Library Reopening Plan after the COVID-19 pandemic- Phase 4.0)**

**Goal:** To Ensure the Health & Safety of Staff, Volunteers, Patrons, and Visitors.

The safety of employees, patrons, visitors, and volunteers is paramount as the library continues its Covid mitigation measures.

We continue to closely monitor CDC guidelines and recommendations by the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (NH DHHS) and are using their recommendations as our primary guidance.

As the pandemic is still evolving, changes will be made to this document to adjust to the various situations.

### **Guidance**

The following organizations have been used for guidance for the *Library Reopening Plan* after the COVID-19 pandemic:

- CDC & WHO
- NH DHHS
- GOFERR: Governor's Office for Emergency Relief & Recovery
- OSHA
- AIHA: American Industrial Hygiene Association
- ALA & NHLA: American & NH Library Association
- NHLA- Reopening NH Libraries Task Force

### **General Guidelines**

- This is a fluid document. Expect changes or reversals, based on scientific evidence and epidemiological research, as the pandemic continues to evolve.
- In unforeseen circumstances or situations, the library director has the authority to make short-term decisions.

**To ensure the health and safety of staff, volunteers, patrons and visitors, the following Covid-19 mitigation strategies have been implemented:**

### **Face Masks**

- Face masks are optional if the “COVID-19 Community Level” is low.
- Face masks are mandatory if the COVID-19 Community Level is high.
- Face masks are highly recommended for the unvaccinated (honor system).

### **Social Distancing**

- Keeping a safe physical distance from others is suggested in the building.

### **Employee Behavior Modification**

- Staff must stay home when sick or experiencing new/unexplained symptoms.
- Staff must practice and promote hygiene practices:
  - Wash hands/use hand sanitizer frequently
  - Practice good respiratory etiquette (sneezing/coughing in tissue or elbow)
- Staff who is feeling sick or needs to care for a family member who is sick, is asked to stay home and work from home if possible while continuing to receive wages.

### **Patron/Visitor Behavior Modification**

- Persons with COVID-19 symptoms may not enter the building.
- If a visitor is non-compliant, they will be asked to leave the building and to take advantage of the library’s online services and its curbside pickup.
- Continued refusal to cooperate will result in calling the authorities.

### **Library Space Modification**

- Access to hand sanitizer is available at multiple locations.
- Sanitizing wipes will be offered at computer stations and in the children’s room.

### **Library Procedures Modifications**

- Curbside pickup is available by request.
- Appointments for elderly and medically vulnerable patrons are available by request.

### **Building Ventilation**

- The new building is equipped with state-of-the-art ventilation equipment. Air can be completely filtered and “renewed” every 12 minutes throughout the building.
- HEPA-filters are in place and will be changed regularly.

### **Restrooms**

- Restrooms are equipped with non-touch soap dispensers, faucets, paper towels, trash cans.
- One restroom will be reserved for staff use.
- One restroom will be reserved for patrons.