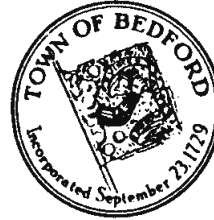


BEDFORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

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May 12, 2020

The Covid-19 Pandemic and Reopening the Bedford Free Public Library

The Trustees strive to provide a welcoming, enriching, and above all, safe library environment for our patrons. In March, the Covid-19 outbreak compelled us to close for several weeks to protect the health of our staff and community.

Now, as conditions allow us to reopen, our goal is to provide library services in the least restrictive manner possible **while preserving the health and safety of library patrons and library staff.**

To accomplish these twin goals the Trustees may need to:

- Limit the number of patrons in the building at any one time
- Close access to specific areas or rooms in the building
- Re-purpose specific rooms or spaces
- Remove or re-arrange furnishings
- Suspend in-house programming.

Furthermore, the Trustees will promote the highest standard of hygiene. Additional cleaning will likely be required which may lead to:

- Restricted hours
- Restricted access to some materials
- Reduced time on public computers.

The Trustees closely follow the directives and recommendations of the Bedford Health Department and the Governor of Massachusetts in regard to public safety and of the Institute of Museums and Library Services in relation to the safe handling of library materials.

Please consult the bedfordlibrary.net for specific updates.

The Library Director and Trustees may adjust this policy to meet emergent needs.

The Trustees appreciate your patience and understanding as we navigate this challenging time. We hope you will do your part to help us keep the library safe by continuing to follow the guidance of local health officials regarding handwashing, face coverings, social distance or other health precautions suggested by the Governor and Bedford Health Department.