



Rochester Public Library
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To: Our Library community
From: Brian Sylvester, Library Director
Re: Covid-19 Preparations

SAT. MARCH 14 - UPDATES: On Friday, March 13th the governor of the State of New Hampshire declared a state of emergency to combat the spread of the Coronavirus. Local officials in Rochester will decide whether or not to curtail Library services. Check back to this page frequently for updates.

The Rochester School Department has suspended classes from March 16th through March 27th. During this closure, the Rochester Public Library will suspend our story time program. Library staff will assess during this closure whether or not to resume story time sessions on March 30th.

Beginning Monday, March 16th the AARP tax preparation service at the Library is suspended. The national branch of the AARP and library staff will determine if and when tax preparation services can resume. Check the AARP Tax Preparation page on the Library's website for updates.

FRI. MARCH 13 - The city of Rochester and the Rochester Public Library are committed to doing our part to help inform the public about the novel Coronavirus and to limit the spread and impact of the COVID-19 virus. The library has added a link on the homepage of our website that contains up to date information from the CDC on the spread of this virus and steps that we can all take to keep our community healthy and safe.

The Rochester Department of Buildings and Grounds has staff trained in minimizing the risk from viral infections cleaning the Library building daily, and we are taking extra steps to sanitize surfaces that people frequently interact with. Our staff has been instructed to remain at home in the event that they are feeling unwell, and to practice strategies to minimize exposure to the virus, including frequent hand washing, avoiding touching one's face, and covering one's mouth when coughing or sneezing.

In the interest of preventing the spread of this virus in our community, I am asking our library visitors to practice these same precautions. If you are feeling well and wish to visit our facility, please be safe: wash your hands with soap for at least 20 seconds before and after your visit, keep a safe distance from other visitors, and be mindful of your surroundings. If you have a fever, a cough, or other signs of a respiratory illness, please contact your primary care physician for advice before visiting.

In the event that the City of Rochester recommends the cancellation or postponement of large or small gatherings to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus, it may become necessary for the Library to restrict access to our meeting rooms or to cancel programs and events. Should this occur, the Library will make every effort to get in touch with the groups who use our facility and the people who have registered for those programs so that everyone is informed.

I hope that you will all stay safe and healthy this spring and join us in doing our part to help everyone else do the same.

Brian Sylvester, Library Director
Rochester Public Library