



ESSEX LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION

A Member Supported Not for Profit Organization

Statement on Essex Library Continuity Planning and Covid-19 (coronavirus)

March 2, 2020

In February, Essex Library Association and our Libraries Online (LION) consortium partners began community outbreak preparedness measures.

In cooperation with local and state officials, the library is maintaining daily updates for procedures and decision making during the rapidly evolving Covid-19 outbreak.

To date, our planning has included:

- Increased housekeeping services with special attention paid to frequent disinfection of high touch areas and equipment in the library
- Making factual resources for outbreak preparedness available in print and electronic form at the library and on our website and social media outlets.
- Alignment of library decision making regarding reducing or closing in-person services in tandem with town & state government officials and school officials.
- Should the town or school systems implement a social distance protocol that involves closing key services or facilities, the library will complement those decisions. **For example, if public schools in the area close for social isolation/quarantine purposes, the Essex Library's facility, book drop, and in-person services will also close.** Patrons should not return books or other materials to the library during this time; patrons with materials already checked out will not incur fines during the period the library facility is closed.
- Provision of wireless internet (Wi-Fi) availability for the public from the library's facility to the immediate surrounding parking area during library closure.
- Planning for Continuity of Operational needs through remote staffing, redundancy training on key services, and provision of services in a social distancing/homebound environment
- Education regarding personal and home preparedness for staff on illness prevention, workplace safety, and basic first aid

Update from Essex Library Association
re: Covid-19 Community Resources

March 2, 2020

Essex Library is providing this update to our patrons and the public regarding resources on the Covid-19 virus and community preparation and response.

Public Information Table

The library now has a centralized collection of printed resources related to the Covid-19 virus available in our atrium at the library. These resources are also available online via the library's website at www.youressexlibrary.org

Online Resource Center

1. The library has created an online resource center on our website at www.youressexlibrary.org with Covid-19 health related information. Information and links will be updated regularly. Resources include:
 - a. Town of Essex links and preparedness sites
 - b. State of Connecticut links
 - c. U.S. Federal links
 - d. Health specific information from resources such as the Centers on Disease Control (CDC), World Health Organization (WHO), MedlinePlus, and others
 - e. Outbreak preparedness resources for area businesses and organizations covering continuity of operations planning
 - f. Outbreak preparedness resources for individuals including basic family emergency supply lists

2. Also on our website, is a special Covid-19 homebound services page which offers links to entertainment and information from home. Resources include:
 - a. Links to existing free library services such as RB Digital and Overdrive; these services are available with your library card
 - b. Links to existing free services that do not require a library card, such as Google Books