

The Field Memorial Library message to our community about how we must respond to the threat of the Corona Virus

The Field Memorial Library continues to maintain normal operations at this time on a day-to-day basis. Please visit our website before coming to the library. We urge everyone to wash their hands, use hand sanitizer, and practice good personal hygiene at all times and especially before visiting the library. Please wipe down your library materials with anti-bacterial wipes before returning them to the library, even if you are putting them in the drop box. Additionally, we are *temporarily suspending overdue fines* so no one needs to return materials if they are sick or concerned that they might become sick.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has made recommendations for people returning from travel to countries with a Level 3 Travel Health Notice. This means that anyone who has traveled to China, Iran, Italy, or South Korea wait for 14 days after returning to the US before visiting the library. We add to this list the Seattle Washington area, the New Rochelle, NY area, and any other area that becomes known as a source of the Corona Virus. If you have visited any area where there is a known outbreak of the Corona Virus, please do not visit the library for at least 14 days after you return from one of these areas.

We ask that everyone be vigilant in visiting the library. If you or your family have any of the symptoms listed below, we ask you to not visit the library until you or your children have been cleared. Symptoms of this infection may appear 2-14 days after exposure and include:

- Temperature above normal/Fever
- Runny nose, coughing or sneezing
- Shortness of breath
- Pneumonia (fluid in the lungs)
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea

COVID-19 is a new respiratory disease, caused by a novel (or new) coronavirus that has not previously been seen in humans. Reported illnesses have ranged from mild symptoms to severe illness and death for confirmed COVID-19 cases.

We also ask that you keep the library core values of Caring, Honesty, Respect and Responsibility in mind when interacting with our staff and members of the community. We are all navigating a new situation and need kindness, compassion and understanding in order to remain present, strong and diligent. Our staff are working very hard to create an atmosphere where all are welcomed and interacting in socially acceptable ways. Behavior contrary to these values makes this challenging situation even more difficult. Please continue to be respectful, self-aware and responsible. We are stronger and healthier when we work together.

The local Boards of Health remain the primary point of contact for any communicable disease outbreaks. The Health Departments in each of the communities we serve are working diligently with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) and the Center of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to monitor and plan for any outbreak. More importantly, when the illness

impacts residents, the Health Departments will guide people through a notice to quarantine, a request to self-quarantine and/or a confirmation of illness with a recommendation to obtain a test for COVID-19. We will continue to take our lead from their direction and guidance.

Included are some links below to assist you in understanding COVID-19 and explain what each of us can do to help stop its spread.

MA Department of Public Health
[MA DPH COVID -19](#)

Center for Disease Control (CDC)
[Travel Information Coronavirus Disease 2019](#)

[Conway Board of Health](#)

[Northampton Board of Health](#)

Additional Resources
[Talking to Children About COVID-19](#)
[How to Hand Wash](#)

Thank you for your support and understanding,
(Parts of this message were drawn from the Hampshire Regional YMCA website)