



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Library Trustees vote to reopen the building effective June 29th with new hours.

Conway, NH – June 17th, 2020 – At their June 15th meeting, the Conway Public Library Board of Trustees voted unanimously to reopen the library building to the public effective June 29th. The Trustees also unanimously voted to affirm the “Safe Building Plan” devised by library staff to mitigate the risk associated with COVID 19. The library has been offering curbside service throughout the COVID shutdown but with the lifting of the stay at home order the Trustees decided it was appropriate to reopen the building.

In developing the Safe Building Plan (SBP), the library sought out public input and received over 150 comments. The goal of the SBP is to mitigate the risk of COVID 19 for staff, the public and volunteers. The plan can be found on the library website, <https://conwaypubliclibrary.org/safe-building-plan-conway-public-library>. Members of the public are encouraged to continue to submit comments about the plan.

The plan contains five sections: Staffing Management, Patron Management, Cleanliness, Building Layout, and Technology. When patrons enter the building they will immediately notice a new layout of library furniture to promote social distancing. The library is now offering chromebooks for checkout so patrons who need to use a computer don't have to remain in the building to access the Internet. Library staff have also set up self-checkout stations to make it easier for members of the public to exit the building as quickly as possible. Curbside pickup will remain an option for those not comfortable entering the building at this time and occupancy will be limited to 15 members of the public at a time. Face masks will be required to enter the building. Masks will be made available to those without one.

New library hours are as follows:

- Monday – Thursday 9-12 by appointment only for seniors, immunocompromised individuals and families
- Monday – Thursday 12-6 for the general public
- Friday 9-5 (no appointments)
- Saturday 9-1 (no appointments)

Hours are subject to change and will expand as the public health situation in the State and region improve.

Library Director David Smolen said, "I am incredibly proud of our staff, who have done a great job throughout the crisis. They have handled a difficult situation with a high level of professionalism and grace. We look forward to reopening the building and seeing our patrons once again."

Founded in 1900, the mission of the Conway Public Library is to create an environment that promotes lifelong learning and community engagement. To meet that end the library collects and provides access to materials in print and digital form that meets the intellectual and cultural needs of the community. The library also offers a wide range of public programs and helps to close the digital divide by providing robust Internet access.