

From the Director's Desk: Welcome to the New Normal



As we move into the Fall, I wanted to recap how far we have come since March. As you can see from our phases of reopening graphic we are almost back to normal. I feel that, aside from a few tweaks, this is essentially where we will be for the foreseeable future.

NESMITH LIBRARY - PHASES OF REOPENING

RED	ORANGE	YELLOW	GREEN	BLUE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building closed to the public • Staff working mostly from home • No circulation of materials • Book drop closed • Virtual programs • Staff answering email/social only • Online services available, some expanded! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building closed to the public • Staff working in the building • No checkout of materials • Book drop open • Virtual programs • Staff answering phone questions, plus email/social • Limited contactless outreach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building closed to the public • Curbside Borrowing for circulation, printing, copying • Book drop open • Virtual & pick up kit programs • Staff answering phone questions, plus email/social • Limited public computer access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building open for restricted browsing (Children's Room remains closed) • Face coverings required • Curbside Borrowing still available • Book drop open • Virtual & pick up kit programs, outdoor programs possible • Meeting Rooms Not Available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building open: full public services, no appointments • Face coverings no longer required • Meeting Rooms open for programs and public groups • Normal in person circulation, interior book drop open as well as exterior • Normal library programming

Call Us with Questions: (603) 432-7154

Nesmith Library is in this phase:

www.nesmithlibrary.org

On the plus side, the staff and I have learned so much about how to provide services in a manner that is safe for both the public and the library staff, that even if the pandemic worsens dramatically here, we should never have to return to Red or even Orange.

There are also many very positive things that have come out of this experience. We experimented with all sorts of new services. Many are things we have wanted to add and necessity accelerated the timeline.

- We now have software to handle online registration for our Summer Reading Program (Beanstack). This program is scalable to all sorts of other library activities and makes tracking reading logs, raffles and prizes a snap.
- We are now all experts at online meeting platforms, which will allow us to provide programming not just during a pandemic but in other situations as well, like bad weather or to make speakers available to a larger audience, etc.
- We've added an Ask a Librarian webchat function to our website the gives our community another way to interact with our staff, which may be more convenient for some.
- The Children's staff introduced "Mystery Bags". These have become so popular that we have expanded the service to all our patrons and created an [online form to request a bag](#). For those who are unfamiliar, you can fill out the form or call the library, let us know what your interests are and any other pertinent information, and we will pick out books, movies or other materials for you to check out and pick up here. We will do the browsing for you.
- We will be adding more picnic tables to the library grounds to provide space for people to use devices, have a quick meeting, do homework or just enjoy a few moments on a nice day. Our Wifi is accessible from the parking lot and around the building, with the password posted on our doors.

The Children's staff is working closely with parent groups as school is reopening to be sure we are doing everything we can do to make this very unusual school year easier.

As a director, I am in awe of how my staff has been able to pivot and think outside the box to bring essential services to our community.

While we are all looking forward to the day we can open our doors wide and without restrictions, we are very happy to be able to welcome members of our community back to the library, even in these altered conditions. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact us if there is something you need. We'll try our best to find a way to get it done.

Sylvie Brikiatis

Nesmith Library Director

Limited Browsing in the building available Monday – Friday 10am -1pm

Computer appointments available Monday – Saturday. Call for appointments

Curbside Service available Monday – Thursday 10am -7pm, Friday 10am - 4pm, Saturday 10am -3pm