

BRIDGEPORT LIBRARY

A Message from the City Librarian

Notice to the Public Regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19)

March 12, 2020

Your Free Bridgeport Public Library greatly values the health and safety of our patrons, visitors, and staff. The Department of Health & Social Services of the City of Bridgeport is actively working with the Center for Disease Control, the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health and with the city's Emergency Operations Center to monitor the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). As a department of the City of Bridgeport, the Library receives all pertinent updates and information regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

We are taking a proactive approach in several areas to make sure that exposure to the coronavirus is prevented in the library space. Our maintenance staff has been instructed to keep tables, doorknobs, and other frequently touched surfaces such as computers and keyboards cleaned and disinfected throughout the day. Burroughs-Saden Library and all library branches have hand sanitizer dispensers near our entrances, and spray bottles with disinfectants are located at all public desks.

The growing severity of the Coronavirus outbreak has triggered libraries and other community gathering places to reevaluate their events and programs. All Bridgeport Public Library programs and meeting room use has been suspended until further notice. Many of these programs will be rescheduled and popular programs resumed once it is deemed safe to do so.

In addition, the Literacy Volunteers' ESL Saturday classes at St John's Church are cancelled until further notice starting March 14th.

In the meantime, Library programming staff will be working on ways to provide programming for children and adults through online platforms, and so we encourage you to visit our library page often to take advantage of those online programs and the many digital resources we offer through on our library webpage, such as eBooks, eAudiobooks, music, and movies to download, online language lessons, tutoring and homework help, and more. These resources are free and available with a Bridgeport Public Library card.

For the time being, the library remains open to patrons to sign -up for library cards, use computers, and borrow materials. We do ask, however, that if you do not feel well, please stay home and get better before visiting.

In order to protect yourself and your loved ones, we urge you to follow these recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control:

- Wash your hands with soap often, for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- To protect others, stay home if you are sick; seek medical attention as necessary.
- Cover coughs and sneezes.
- Wear a facemask if **you** are sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.

For more information and tips visit the CDC Coronavirus (COVID-19) website:

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)

If you have general questions about Coronavirus, you **can call 2-1-1 or text “COVID-19” to 898211.**

In addition you can find information from these sites:

[City of Bridgeport Department of Health and Social Services](#)
[Connecticut State Department of Public Health](#)

If you have further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

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