

NHLTA Virtual Roundtable Notes 9/22/2020 2:00 – 3:00

Lori Fisher – Assistant State Librarian

1. ILL van service has begun running again on 9/21. Things are going well. Most libraries are ready. Van drivers wear masks and gloves, and use hand sanitizer. The drivers may use their discretion on how much material will fit into the van. The drivers have returned to a normal schedule.
2. The State Library has been open to the public since July 4 by appointment only.
3. Lori suggested looking at the New Hampshire Libraries Covid-19 resources. By next week, expect a new document on best practices from the Reopening NH Libraries task force.
4. NHMA and Primex are presenting a webinar called Reopening 2.0. It will have good information for libraries on many fronts.
5. REALM response virus load on objects in testing: ILL requires 72 hours of quarantine on either side for books and material. Lori does not feel that there is a need for a six day quarantine, but this is up to individual libraries and communities.
6. Contact tracing and libraries: There are privacy concerns and implications for librarians.
7. HVAC systems: Ventilation is key. Lori strongly suggested that trustees discuss ventilation of their library at the next trustee meeting.
8. At 1:00 on Thursdays, people can join a call with NHMA attorneys to ask questions. Lori and Katrinka suggested that people get on the call early.
9. Upcoming workshop: Library Advocacy during Budget Season. Coming in October!

Questions and comments from roundtable attendees:

1. Katrinka Pellecchia: Lee. Her library's opening went well. They have a limit of ½ hour for computer use. They have not had to refuse anyone at the door. Curbside pick up continues. Patrons come in one door and go out another. They have a limit of 8 people in the library at a time, and are discouraging people from hanging out. Two staff members have left. (One has moved and one has retired.)
2. Alice Staples: Ashland. She wondered why, if her library is so small, they should reopen. Social distancing is difficult.
3. Cindy Raspiller: Daland Memorial Library, Mont Vernon. Her library offers "walk through service." Appointments are not needed. They are not encouraging people to stay in the library.
4. Beverly Mutrie: Hampton Falls Free Library. Her library is still offering curbside pick-up. She mentioned "book match maker" – a service where patrons can call to ask for ideas for books. They are not open, as they are not sure how to deal with patrons touching books and returning them to the shelves.
5. Michael Simon: Pillsbury Free Library, Warner. He wonders how a library can be open and keep doing curbside pick-up, as this requires an increase in staff.

6. Susan LeClair: Elkins Public Library, Canterbury. Her library is about 4500 square feet large. It is open and curbside continues. Patrons ring the doorbell. Masks have not been a problem and patrons must use hand sanitizer. Four people are allowed in the building. They have shifted their hours: no evening hours. Appointments are needed for computers and for families wanting to use the children's room. They have learned that older patrons might not be comfortable reserving a book through the on-line catalog and are working on this.
7. Bill Meyer: New Durham. They applied for a CARES Act grant for chrome books, which can be used outside with the library's WIFI.
8. Pat Fickett: Wilton. Her library also received a grant to purchase chrome books, and had to buy a new printer that would be compatible with the chrome books. They have expanded Wi-Fi. They are putting new and newer books in their rotunda for patrons to browse. Staff members will retrieve books from the stacks for patrons. If books are touched, she recommends not to stack them, as only 24 hours is needed then for quarantining. Four patrons are allowed in the building at a time.
9. Brittany Overton: Minot Sleeper Library, Bristol. Brittany's office has moved into the lobby area. As librarian, she monitors curbside books and welcomes patrons. Many libraries have allowed patrons to borrow hot spots. There is a concern for liability here. Would the library be covered by insurance?
10. Denise van Zanten: Manchester City Library. Her library is open for two hours at a time, and then closed for one hour to clean. Patrons can browse the main room and the children's room. They are averaging 100 – 150 patrons per day. Only one person had to be asked to leave, as she refused to wear a mask. Four staff members have left. They are not open on weekends. She would like to offer hot spots but hasn't yet, as there are issues with city security. The libraries wireless is constantly on. There are technical issues with hot spots as well.
11. Pat Fickett: Wilton. They were required to cut 10% from their budget, amounting to \$30,000. Two staff members had to be cut. Level Funding required.
12. Susan LeClair: Canterbury She will not be "spending down" her budget, so that money can be returned to the town. Grantham Library is doing the same thing.
13. General consensus is that masks are required in libraries for patrons ages three and up.