



Next phase of reopening as of Thursday, September 13, 2021

HOURS OF OPERATION

Main Library

Monday - Wednesday 10:00 AM - 5:30 PM

Thursday 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Friday - Saturday 10:00 AM - 5:30 PM

SoNo Branch

Monday 10:00 AM - 5:30 PM

Tuesday 11:30 AM - 7:00 PM

Wednesday - Saturday 10:00 AM - 5:30 PM

This proposed plan is tentative as we watch the effects of Coronavirus cases and the variants. The Norwalk Public Library's reopening is meant to align with Mayor Rilling's and Governor Lamont's plans for public spaces. They are subject to change or modification according to state and/or local orders and health officials' recommendations.

For the time being, we are limiting the length of time patrons can study and use computers to ensure access to as many people as possible. We are still safety cautious due to the uptick in Coronavirus variant cases. We appreciate your patience!

Protective Supplies for Employees

- Masks
- Gloves (for touching shared surfaces and to discard when finished)
- Disinfecting wipes for computers, desks, shared phones, etc.
- Hand Sanitizer
- Plexiglas barriers are installed at reference and circulation desks.
- Plexiglas barriers are installed in staff offices where social distance is not possible.
- Organize work areas at least six feet apart to allow for social distance.
- Employees with documented serious underlying health condition, and those with a compromised immune system will have limited interactions with the public.
- Employees are asked to stay home if they are sick, have a fever or cough.

Protective Measures for Patrons

- Disinfecting wipes in public areas
- Hand Sanitizer Dispensers
- Handwashing suggested
- Masks

Library Protocols

- Security guard will greet visitors, have them sign in and out for contact tracing and capacity limit control.
- 25 people will be allowed per floor at the main library.
15 people will be allowed per floor at the SoNo branch.
- Social distance protocols will be strictly enforced.
- Masks must be worn at all times while in the library.
- Please note: Mask are not required outdoors when patrons/staff are social distanced. Patrons who do not follow social distance protocols will be asked to wear a mask.

Current Availability/Services

- Browse for materials in the adult and youth collections with social distance compliance
- Print, scan, fax, and copy
- Research and account assistance
- Borrow WiFi hotspot kits
- Borrow Chromebooks and laptops for in-library use
- Walk-up service continues for printing, copying, and faxing
- Computer are available on a first come first served basis for 45 minutes, or a maximum of 90 minutes if working on a job application, unemployment claims, or other business that requires more time. Please note that to provide social distance at both of our library locations:
 - Six (6) people are allowed in the computer area for computer use at the main library;
 - Four (4) people are allowed in the computer area for computer use at SoNo branch.
- Reading/study tables are available by appointment for up to 90 minutes per appointment, no more than two people per table
- One 15-minute express computer will be available without appointment.
- Studio One access by appointment, one hour and one person per appointment.

Touchless Services

- Sidewalk Service for library holds
- Apply for library cards online
- Access to 24/7 digital library resources: databases, eBooks, eAudiobooks, music, movies, more.
- WiFi access 24/7 directly outside of our libraries
- WiFi printing in the library during library hours.
- Assistance with eDevices and digital library resources and downloadable content by phone

NOTE: All fines and fees apply with the exception of children's fines. All Children's cards are fine free, though replacement costs will incur for lost items.

Programs:

- Adult and children's programs continue via Zoom, YouTube video, and Facebook Live.
- Adult and children's programs/concerts will take place outdoors.

Services On Hold

- No in-person programs.
- No group visits or class visits will be permitted at this time.
- We are currently working on a mix of in-person - virtual hybrid programming for the future.

Room Bookings/Multipurpose Rooms

- Multipurpose rooms are currently used for City department meetings.
- One public room booking per day will be accepted for our multipurpose rooms.
 - 25 people at a time in our main library multipurpose room.
 - 15 people at a time in our SoNo branch multipurpose room.
- Social distancing must be enforced.
- Masks must be worn at all times.
- Violations will result in being banned from using the room.
- Study room bookings are available, up to two people per study room.
[Judy Room](#), [Study Pod](#), [Computer lab](#), [big study room](#)

Youth Department In-Person Service Plan

Because youth under 12 have not been vaccinated, we have not resumed in-library story times or reinstalled tables and chairs.

- Computers are available for homework only.
- Games are available to check out, but no games or toys are available to use in the library.
- Online outreach continues with schools, camps, and daycares.

PopUp Truck

- The PopUp Library offers site visits servicing adults and youth as weather and staffing permits.

Friends of Norwalk Public Library

- Friends of NPL offer an outdoor and indoor free books cart service.
- Donations are accepted by appointment on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
Please call 203.899.2780 ext. 15100, or 203.899.2790 ext. 15901 to schedule an appointment.

Employee and Patron Restrooms

- Bathrooms are designated for either staff use or patron use.
- No more than one person or family in the restroom at a time.
- Disinfecting wipes are placed in bathrooms.
- Bathrooms are deep cleaned every three (3) hours.

Elevator

- Elevator use is restricted to one person or one family group at a time.

Employee Break Room

- No more than 3 people at one time.
- No games, jigsaw puzzles, etc. will be available until further notice.

The Blue Teapot

- The Blue Teapot would like to open the café on September 22, 2021.
- Blue Teapot services are now expanded to offer catering services for library room bookings.
- Furniture will be arranged to allow for social distance.
- A re-opening affair will take place to advertise. Date to be determined with the COVID-19 variant case numbers in mind.
- Nijole proposed small scale high tea to take place every Saturday in the Blue Teapot area with a maximum of 8 people in the area at a time.
- Blue Teapot owner and Library Director will work with the Norwalk Health Department to ensure all safety protocols are followed.