

Abbott Library

Communicable and Infectious Disease Prevention Policy

Policy

In the event of an emergency situation where a potentially serious health risk is known or anticipated, the Board of Trustees grants authority to the Abbott Library Director to implement protective measures on a temporary basis. These measures deemed as necessary and appropriate to address the potential health risk shall be based on specific and documented recommendations of the federal, state and/or local health authorities. These measures shall be documented in writing and presented to the Board of Trustees to review and approve after development and implementation. Necessary and appropriate modifications shall be made to the measures as data and evidence-based practices are available or when the risk has been significantly reduced or eliminated.

Rationale

The possibility exists for Abbott Library patrons, volunteers and staff to come in contact with pathogens; to include bacterium, virus, or other microorganism that can cause disease, while in the premises and or engaged in Library services and activities. These services and activities are often conducted within a closed environment, in close proximity to others and where surfaces and materials are shared thereby posing a risk of contamination. Should a situation occur where there is an awareness of the presence of pathogens that are very dangerous and or the risk of casual transmission is great, a timely response and aggressive measures are essential.

Who will Policy Impact

Everyone engaged in any capacity in the Abbott Library's services and activities should be assured to a reasonable degree that they will be spared contamination by biological agents that can compromise their health, cause disease and possibly death. The Library's patrons, volunteers and staff expect and deserve a safe environment. They do so with a mindset that they are in a safe environment virtually free of serious risks that could compromise their health. They expect that appropriate measure will be implemented in a timely manner to address any risks that become known.

Examples of Measures

These measures may include but are not limited to Library closure; temporary adjustments in services available; implementation of sanitation protocols and social distancing requirements; and modifications to staff roles and responsibilities.

Basis for Measures

In developing and articulating these measures consideration shall be given to:

- the safety of library patrons, volunteers and staff;
- recommendations, guidance, and emergency orders issued by the Governor of New Hampshire;
- recommendations and guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services;
- recommendations and guidance from the New Hampshire State Library;

- the status and mode of delivery of services offered by the Town of Sunapee;
- and the mode of operation of the Sunapee School District.

Approved and adopted by the Board of Trustees on January 26, 2023.