



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Colchester-East Hants Public Library resumes in-person services July 14

*Truro, NS – July 7, 2020 – The Colchester-East Hants Public Library is announcing the reopening of all five branch libraries beginning July 14.*

“We are very pleased to announce that we are ready to reopen our doors to the public,” says Library Board chair Ruby McDorman. “Our staff have done a tremendous job developing safety procedures that are aligned with Provincial Public Health COVID-19 protocols, which will allow most of our library services to become available once again.”

On Tuesday, July 14, all branches of CEHPL will resume in-person library services, including in-person holds pick-up, browsing access to books and other physical collections, drop-in computer access and in-person staff assistance.

Branch libraries have been closed since the Provincial State of Emergency was declared in March, during which time the Library provided a comprehensive suite of virtual programs and services and a considerable online collection: <https://lovemylibrary.ca/e-library/>. The Library will continue to offer 24/7 access to the E-Library as well as an array of online programming, including Summer Reading Club for kids and teens: <https://lovemylibrary.ca/summer-reading-clubs/>.

While the libraries were temporarily closed to public visits, staff were hard at work developing a detailed plan to safely reopen. Chief Executive Officer, Tiffany Bartlett, explains: “We’ve created a multi-stage reopening roadmap that will allow us to dial up and/or dial down Library service levels (like the volume on a speaker) in response to changing pandemic conditions and Provincial Public Health restrictions and protocols.” The plan called, *Our Path to Reopening*, is accessible to all on the Library’s website: [www.lovemylibrary.ca](http://www.lovemylibrary.ca).

The following public safety precautions will be in effect when branch libraries reopen:

- There will be a limit on the number of patrons allowed in the library at one time;
- A staff “navigator” will welcome patrons and provide guidance regarding the new protocols;
- Furniture has been removed and rearranged to allow for ample physical distancing;
- New signage, floor markings, and visual cues will be posted throughout the branches;
- Computer use will be limited to one hour per day per person. Computers are sanitized between each use;
- All returned library materials are quarantined for 72 hours;
- Library staff will provide support while maintaining the required physical distance;
- Plexiglass barriers have been installed at service points;
- The wearing of masks by patrons is encouraged but not required;
- Library staff have access to masks and gloves;
- High-touch surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected frequently.

As always, patrons are welcome to email or phone during open hours regarding memberships, reference and readers' advisory questions, and tech help.

Library Take-Out and Expanded Books by Mail, two new contact-free services which debuted in June, will also continue during this time. All due dates for items checked out prior to the library closure have been extended through July 31. Fines have also been waived.

Chief Executive Officer, Tiffany Bartlett, says "The safety and health of our patrons and staff remains our top priority. We have heard from our patrons how much they've missed in-person services during our temporary closure, and we've missed them too. While things are going to look a little different, we are very excited to begin opening our doors once again."

More details about the Library's Reopening Plan and a FAQ page (frequently asked questions) can be found on [www.lovemylibrary.ca](http://www.lovemylibrary.ca).

For more information, please contact:

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