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Library Services during the COVID-19 Pandemic

In accordance with the requirements of O.Reg.364/20: Rules for Areas in Stage 3, Section 2 of Schedule 1, subsections (4), (5), (6) and other additional public health safety directives from the Southwestern Public Health (SWPH), the Woodstock Public Library has implemented the following practices during the COVID-19 pandemic to protect the health and safety of our patrons and staff:

- Posted visible signage indicating that all persons entering or remaining inside the library must wear a face covering.
- Providing alcohol-based hand sanitizer lotion at all entrances and exits.
- Conducting a COVID-19 screening of all patrons entering into the library.
- Limited the building capacity to 40 patrons.
- Promoting social distancing while in the Library through the use of visible signage throughout the building.
- Instituted a “browse, borrow and go” library service model, and removing all public seating.
- Promoting excellence in hand hygiene and cough/sneeze etiquette.
- Providing alternative service delivery models (e.g. curbside pickup) upon request.
- Conducting enhanced cleaning protocols of public spaces and washrooms.
- Upgraded the building ventilation with the installation of MERV-13 filters.
- Staff training and use of protective personal equipment and protective barriers.
- Quarantine of returned library items for 6 days.
- Encouraging patrons to use the Library’s holds pick-up service and self-service check-out kiosk.
- Conducting staff self-assessment for COVID-19 symptoms prior to reporting to work.
- Reduction of onsite staff presence through working from home whenever possible.
- Conducting all staff meetings via video conferencing.
- Establishing and implementing protocols for possible COVID-19 exposure or positive testing of library staff.
- Communicating and provided training to staff on COVID-19 protocols.

David Harvie
Library CEO