March 25, 2020

TO: The New Hampshire Library Community

SOMETHING TO CONSIDER

It seems to me that when we get into times like this commonsense is the most important characteristic we all need to cultivate. We all agree that libraries are critical institutions in our communities. They help every day to make our patrons happier, better informed and part of our communities. There is the natural tendency of librarians to PITCH IN do what is needed to help. Libraries and most importantly librarians are always in the first wave to help during difficult times.

The difference with the situation we face now is that this is a medical emergency; the WHO has determined it is a pandemic. Commonsense dictates the our only real concern needs to be keeping our staff safe and to do as much as we can to not expose them to the virus. Keeping the library doors shut and not exposing our staff to individuals who may carry the Corona virus is most important.

If we listen to the health professionals, who know the most about pandemics Dr. Fauci for example they tell us what we need to do is limit exposure to other humans beings; social distancing and washing our hands constantly!

Any New Hampshire Libraries still providing any type of in person services for patrons should carefully weigh the costs and benefits of these services. It makes you feel good that you are doing your part during this difficult time, but is it the best way to flatten the curve. Health professionals tell us flattening the curve is critical in keeping the health care system functioning.

We need to keep the system robust enough to get past this pandemic we need to limit the number of patients the system has to handle so protecting people from exposure is necessary.

For additional Information:

https://www.nh.gov/covid19/

Questions about COVID-19
Call 2-1-1
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