

Email from Michael York to NHAIS-L, 3/27/2020
Subject: Governor Sununu's Emergency Order Number 17

TO: The New Hampshire Library Community:

There have been a number of posts to the NHAIS list regarding ESSENTIAL WORKERS. Who are essential workers; am I an essential worker? In Emergency Order # 17 Pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04 Closure of non-essential businesses and requiring Granite Staters to stay at home: Governor Sununu gives the reasons for Emergency Order #17 based on the goal of protecting the lives of New Hampshire residents.

Part 6 the Governor's order clearly states that "Emergency Order Number 17 does not apply to State Government, local and county government, local and county legislative bodies, the General Court or the Judicial Branch." So it is clear that the decision about whether or not librarians are essential workers is not addressed in this order. The Governor's order has been issued because he believes that restricting the movement of the residents of New Hampshire will help slow Covid-19 from spreading. The term Essential Worker in this context is meaningless. The Governor's Order has no impact on our public libraries since they come under the jurisdiction of the local elected/appointed Library Boards of Trustees or other city governing bodies, who should make a decision on whether to remain open based on information available to them from a wide variety of reliable government sources including local, state, and national health officials and emergency services. There are many valid sources with information on how we can fight this pandemic. Please see the <https://www.nh.gov/covid19/>

Stay Safe

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