

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Visiting the public library this summer – how we’ve changed, and what you can expect.

(June 24, 2020): Welcome back! We missed you at the library and we’re so glad to see, email, call and chat with you too. All branches of the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library are now open for public service (with limited open hours), including the Borrow-by-Mail service. While our virtual library, [www.parl.ns.ca](http://www.parl.ns.ca), continues to remain open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Although to keep us all safe, we’ve had to change a few important ways so that we can safely provide our public library service to you.

While the regional library was temporarily closed to public visits and in-person services respecting the NS Public Health recommendations with regards to COVID 19, our staff developed a detailed plan to safely reopen. Also, together with the other eight regional libraries, Nova Scotia Provincial Library and the Nova Scotia government, we have submitted a sector plan for approval by Public Health. You can find both on our virtual library website, [www.parl.ns.ca](http://www.parl.ns.ca).

A question often asked is, “What is coming to the library like and is it safe?”.

The answer is, “Much the same experience as it was before, but with all the public health safety protocols in place.”.

When you arrive outside one of our seven library locations this summer, you will be greeted by a Library Navigator. The Navigator is a library staff person who will help guide you in the most convenient way to use our library service.

- If you are picking up a requested book or other material, the Navigator can arrange to have a ‘contactless delivery’ of library material brought to you, outside the library entrance.
- If you wish to enter the library and browse for materials, use a computer, ask a question, or anything else, the Navigator will review the COVID 19 safety precautions you need to know prior to entering the library.
- The Library’s COVID 19 safety precautions include – do not enter if you are feeling unwell, sanitize your hands (hand sanitizer is available), stay six feet or two metres apart, and only one person in an aisle at a time.
- Due to the need for social distancing each library has a limit on how many people can be inside at once. To make your wait easier, we have chairs outside each library, located six feet apart, and umbrellas (sanitized between uses) if it is raining or too sunny.

Inside the library, there is ample room for social distancing as some furniture has been removed and rearranged.

- All returned books and materials are to be returned into the library’s Return Boxes (located near or next to the library entrance).

- All returned library materials are quarantined for 72 hours, respecting Public Health guidelines, protocol and current research.
- All our library service desks have also been screened by clear panel of acrylic. Library staff also have access to personal face masks, face shields, gloves and aprons.
- Public computer use is available (although limited to 30 minutes per day, per person) by using special washable keyboards and mice that are sanitized after each use, and thoroughly washed every day. Workstations are disinfected regularly, as are all high touch surfaces.
- Free Public Internet Access by Wireless (WiFi) service is always available around each of our library locations, both outdoors and inside.

We are currently working on ways to safely reintroduce popular services such as computer and device training. More news will follow shortly. As a public service, safety for all - is our number one concern. We welcome ideas and suggestions and look forward to welcoming everyone back to their local library.

For more information, please visit [www.parl.ns.ca](http://www.parl.ns.ca) or call toll-free at 1-866-779-7761.

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