

Amagansett Free Library
Airborne Infectious Disease Exposure Prevention Policy and Plan

This policy is intended to provide guidance for preventing the spread of airborne infectious diseases in the library environment. For this policy's purposes, infectious diseases are serious diseases capable of being transmitted to other individuals through the air or by direct physical contact between individuals or contaminants. Communicable diseases include, but are not limited to, contagious and infectious diseases such as measles, mumps, chickenpox, influenza, tuberculosis, viral hepatitis-A (infectious hepatitis), viral hepatitis-B (serum hepatitis), COVID-19, and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

Mandated protocols as determined by the Suffolk County Department of Health, State of New York, Town of East Hampton, United States Centers for Disease Control (CDC), or any other authorized public health official will be followed in addition to all the applicable library policy guidelines.

The library will not discriminate against any patron or employee based on the individual having an infectious disease. Patrons and employees shall not be denied access to the library solely on the grounds that they have an infectious disease. However, the library reserves the right to exclude a person with a communicable disease from the library facilities, programs, and functions if the organization finds that, based on a reasonable determination, such restriction is necessary for the welfare of the person who has the communicable disease and/or the welfare of others within the library.

The library will comply with all applicable statutes and regulations that protect the privacy of persons who have communicable diseases.

Employee and Patron Responsibility While in the Library

Each individual has a responsibility to prevent the spread of communicable diseases when they are aware of or suspect that they are/may be a carrier.

Awareness is showing or feeling signs of illness. Examples include coughing, sneezing, fever, joint aches, overall feelings of malaise, or a report from a health care provider. Awareness also includes known exposure to someone with a known or suspected communicable disease. Good judgment by all is critical in safeguarding the health of library patrons and employees.

It is expected that all library users and employees practice proper hygiene by covering their mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing with their arm pit. If this is not possible, then the hand, preferably covered with a tissue, can be used to cover coughs and sneezes. Immediate hand washing or sanitizing of hands is recommended by health officials. In addition, touching eyes, nose, or mouth should be avoided.

Library Procedures

The library will help patrons and employees avoid infectious diseases by:

- Requiring library patrons and employees demonstrating active symptoms of an infectious disease to leave the library facilities, program, or function if library personnel reasonably believe the person is placing the welfare of themselves or others at risk. Health screenings are required when necessary.
- Disinfect and sanitize all public door handles, equipment, and surface areas in addition to the standard cleaning.
- The library will provide sufficient facilities for handwashing with warm water and soap. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers or wipes (at least 60%) will be in common areas. Tissues, disinfectants, and disposable towels for patrons and employees to clean workstations will be available.
- Ensure working air filtration systems are in place both as stand-alone units and installed in the HVAC system.
- Ensure effective social distancing of library users and staff.
- Provide appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for library users and staff.

The library director will enforce compliance with the plan and conduct a verbal review of infectious disease standards, employer policies, and employee rights. The library will comply with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, standards of guidance on notification to cover individuals and government agencies of potential exposure to airborne infectious diseases.