Updates regarding the novel coronavirus COVID-19

WNYLRC is committed to supporting its member libraries and librarians during this difficult time. Due to concerns around the spread of the coronavirus, the Western New York Library Resources Council is cancelling all in-person professional development events and meetings through April 30, 2020 and hope to reschedule at a later date. WNYLRC staff will be working remotely beginning on Wednesday, March 18th through April 3. All staff are reachable via email and phone as usual. We do not expect any disruption to WNYLRC services. Meetings can effectively be done via Zoom. We will re-evaluate this temporary closure the last week of March to determine if it needs to be extended. Thank you for your patience and understanding during this unprecedented situation.

To encourage staying connected with each other during this time, we invite you to join us online on Fridays!

Staying connected is important during this unprecedented time. WNYLRC seeks to stay engaged our members by offering the library community an opportunity to chat, discuss, and check-in with colleagues around the region. Please join us for our weekly online Zoom meeting beginning this Friday, March 20. Call in to say hi, ask questions, provide updates, and talk to your fellow library people.

Fridays at 11:30 am  https://zoom.us/j/196302446
For those joining by phone:  Dial: 1-929-205-6099
Meeting ID: 196 302 446

Please remember that Governor Cuomo has recommended cutting crowd capacity to no more than 50 people. This information may change as New York State continues to respond to and assess the evolving COVID-19 pandemic. You may find state updates here.

The New York State Library Association recommends public libraries in New York State suspend public operations, based on the guidelines from the Governor's office. They also provide additional resources, including sample statements.

Remember to encourage patrons to use Ask Us 24/7. Patrons or students of non-participating libraries may still use the service but just do not have the option of directly interacting with their own librarians either by referral or on the virtual desk. Direct them to askus247.org or to the following question forms based on their library type:
• Academic library question form
• Public library question form

Please follow the CDC guidelines, including:

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
• Avoiding close contact with people who are sick.
• Staying home when you are sick.
• Covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throwing the tissue in the trash.

For more information about COVID-19, please visit the CDC:

• Overview information, updated regularly
• Key facts about COVID-19
• Confirmed cases
  • US only
  • Globally

Other resources:

• FREE Access to papers about COVID-19 on EBSCO
• Updated scholarly research on COVID-19 on LitCOVID (curated by NLM)
• Ask The Lawyer RAQ - Emergency Response to COVID-19
• Ask The Lawyer RAQ - Website Disclaimers for Information