



Dear Members of the BWG Community,

It has been a long five months, but BWG Library staff are preparing to welcome visitors inside the building again. COVID-19 may forever alter the Library experience, but the BWG Library's commitment to serving our community has not changed. Library staff have connected with community members virtually over the past five months and have found creative ways to deliver resources and services to our community in the safest way possible. Now, however, we are looking forward to welcoming visitors inside the building beginning Friday, September 4.

It has been a long journey, involving many internal planning meetings, guidance from provincial and local officials, consulting other library systems and conferring with local experts. We appreciate your support and encouragement and look forward to serving you in the Library when our doors reopen in September.

When our facilities reopen, visitors will notice changes to the Library experience. Library staff will be wearing personal protective equipment and following enhanced cleaning protocols. Visitors to the BWG Library will be required to wear face coverings and maintain social distancing for the safety of our staff and fellow patrons. If a borrower is unable to wear a face covering, they will be required to answer a few questions, as mandated by the government, however the Library will continue to offer walk-up service, as well as printing and photocopying services.

Other changes will include increased cleaning of facilities, as well as continued quarantining of heavily browsed items and returned materials, in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19. BWG Library's hours of operation are also changing to include Saturday browsing and internet access. (Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Thursdays from 1:30 to 7:00 p.m.)

BWG Library staff will monitor visitor capacity and limit visits to 30 minutes. This will allow everyone who wants to visit the Library to access our materials and resources safely. Computers will continue to be available in two locations of our Library: The Computer Lab and the Café, which have both been reconfigured to allow for social distancing. Computer sessions will be 30-minutes per person per day, with the computers in the Café area offering the possibility of one 30-minute extension, depending on capacity and computer demand. These limits are to allow for COVID-19 related cleaning and to ensure equal access to the internet. Borrowers will be asked to use hand sanitizer prior to using a computer. All meeting and study rooms will remain closed at this time. As restrictions to the number of members of the public in our building eases, we will explore opportunities to expand these services.

The Library will continue to provide virtual programs, since regulations regarding the number of people in the building and proximity of people in meeting rooms restrict the staff's ability to run inclusive and accessible programming in the Library at this time.





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I am extremely proud of our staff. Since the start of this pandemic, staff have developed plans and processes to ensure services were provided to our community through online platforms. During Curbside Pick Up, Library staff worked tirelessly to provide material, computer and internet access to our community.

We appreciate the patience each of you have had and the support you have offered. We look forward to seeing you in person starting September 4.

Matthew Corbett  
Chief Executive Officer  
Bradford West Gwillimbury Public Library  
August 19, 2020

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