

November 25, 2020
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Enhanced public health measures at St. Albert Public Library

ST. ALBERT, AB – In response to the Alberta government announcement on November 24 of a second state of public health emergency, St. Albert Public Library is enacting enhanced public health measures.

St. Albert Public Library has acted throughout the pandemic to ensure the safety of library patrons and staff. Our current safety protocols in both library locations – limited entry, physical distancing, sanitization, and other precautions – meet or exceed all provincial guidelines, and library patrons will see minimal changes to library use. These changes will be implemented effective Friday, November 27.

New health measures will take effect Friday, November 27:

- Study spaces at both library locations will be closed until further notice;
- Public computer use will be limited to one hour per patron per day;
- More library staff will work remotely, which may impact wait times at service desks

Current health measures remain in place:

- Mask use remains mandatory as per City of St. Albert bylaw;
- Current patron limits are well below the 25% occupancy limit recommended in government guidelines, and will not change;
- Current sanitation protocols by staff, and those required by patrons using public computers, meet or exceed government guidelines and will not change.

Core in-person Library services and hours continue:

- Browsing and checkout of physical collections such as books and DVDs
- Return of library materials to drop boxes at both locations
- Sign-up or renewal of library cards
- Public computer use plus printing, copying and scanning.
- Career Resource Centre services
- Library hours at the Downtown and Jensen Lakes libraries will remain the same – see sapl.ca for the most up to date hours;

- The new hours at Jensen Lakes Library will still take effect on December 1 – see sapl.ca for details of the changes;
- Limited soft seating at both locations will remain available for short term use;

The Library encourages our patrons to take the following actions during the state of public health emergency:

- Use the holds system – let our staff collect your materials for you;
- Keep your visits short;
- Send fewer members of your household to the library at one time;
- Ensure your mask fits well and covers your nose at all times;
- Be vigilant in your use of provided hand sanitizer;
- As always, do not enter the library if you are feeling sick.

“In-person connections and supports are an integral part of the Library’s service to the community and we are committed to continuing to offer great service during this state of public health emergency. We take great pride in the many safety protocols we have in place,” says Library CEO Peter Bailey. “The other side of that safety equation is our patrons, and we appreciate the care and respect they continue to show when visiting the Library. We thank the community for their continued support and cooperation.”

- 30 -

For more information, contact:

Peter Bailey

CEO, St. Albert Public Library

780-459-1681

pbailey@sapl.ca