

BENTLEY MEMORIAL LIBRARY
COVID-19 Update / March 24, 2020

The decision to close was a difficult one that we didn't make lightly. We understand that not having access to the library building and our physical resources causes a hardship for many people. But after some tough conversations and planning by library staff and town administration, we felt closing was in the best interest of our staff and the public. The library needs to do its part in helping slow the spread of coronavirus. We know this will be hard, but this will not last forever. And we will rise to this occasion. *Think of this as 'safer at home.'*

The Connecticut Library Association says it best: "Libraries are the hearts of their communities, proudly "Open to All," but at this time, that mission creates risk to the very community we are dedicated to serving. Library staff can provide service and work effectively from home or within their closed buildings, creating, curating, and navigating online content; preparing for programs and activities for when the library re-opens; responding to questions asked via email or social media channels, or even from forwarded phone calls. While our work is essential, our ability to perform it does not require the risk of person-to-person contact during a public health emergency."

We are constantly monitoring the COVID-19 situation and re-evaluating our response. We will keep you updated via frequent e-mails. For the most up-to-date information we urge you to frequently check the town of Bolton's website: <http://bolton.govoffice.com>.

We have a skeleton staff on the premises Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. to take your calls and offer what assistance we can. **Contact us 860-646-7349 or bentley@biblio.org.**

Meanwhile...

The library building and bookdrop remain CLOSED to the public until further notice. All programs are canceled until further notice. Please keep library items safe at home for return when we re-open.

Don't worry about due dates or late fees! We will not charge overdue fines on anything currently circulating.

Make Use of Our Free Remote Resources! Some of these resources require a valid library card. For Bolton residents only: If your card needs renewing, give us a call and we'll extend your expiration date. If you do not have a card, call us at 860-646-7349 during business hours (Mon.–Thurs., 10 a.m. –6 p.m.) and we will create one for you.

Free Downloadable eAudiobooks & eBooks:

https://bolton.govoffice.com/index.asp?SEC=B572B6BE-7E1D-4472-AD16-D72B5C7D7798&DE=F39C57F3-60CE-4170-8F4C-CD5199603873&Type=B_BASIC

Free Online Research Resources:

https://bolton.govoffice.com/index.asp?SEC=B572B6BE-7E1D-4472-AD16-D72B5C7D7798&DE=EABE3624-7E52-4550-8CF8-B1E14FA2EBE4&Type=B_BASIC

Other Online Reading Resources: Junior Library Guild is making their collection of reading materials for all grade levels free at: <https://www.juniorlibraryguild.com/>. User names and passwords are no longer needed. Search the internet for activities for your bored kids, like **Mo Willem's Lunch Doodles** on YouTube; **StoryLineOnline.net**; **WeAreTeachers.com** Big List of Children's Authors Doing Online Readalouds & Activities.

Use Our Free Wi-Fi. Park in the library's lot and log on. The password is **bmlbooks**.

Although you can't use our museum passes while these institutions are closed, many museums are posting virtual video tours of their exhibits on their websites. For instance, check out **mysticseaport.org** for a collection of video stories from all over the Seaport.