

Bentley Memorial Library
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When Will Connecticut Libraries Open?

(Hartford)—Libraries in Connecticut are developing their plans to re-open, following the guidelines and requirements set forth by the Governor's Office. Each library is carefully considering the needs of its community, the expectations of its patrons, and its capacity to ensure a safe place for staff and visitors. The Governor's requirements for re-opening call for each library to be able to meet every requirement. The requirements include:

- Adequate Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) for staff; visitors must wear masks and sanitizer must be provided for visitors
- Assurance that capacity – the number of persons in the building at one time – may not exceed 50%
- Possible limits on the amount of time visitors can spend in a library
- Appointments for use of computers
- Redesign or suspension of events that bring in large groups, including children's summer programs
Bentley Memorial Library has suspended all in-house programs until further notice.
- Redesign or adaptation of places where people interact face-to-face, such as check-out desks or reference services
- Regular disinfection of shared surfaces multiple times during each work day

The decision to open each library also needs to be based on an evaluation by the local health district, local library governance (including Library Boards and Town government), the physical characteristics of the buildings and staffing levels.

The Town of Bolton is working toward a Phase II reopening. Bentley Memorial Library is preparing for limited in-person access. Please consult the Town website (<https://bolton.govoffice.com>) and our weekly newsletter (<https://bolton.govoffice.com/library>) for updates.

Libraries are eager to return to the full range of personal services provided before the COVID-19 health and safety emergency declaration. Libraries are now challenged by the need to make radical changes that will significantly alter how they serve their communities. Before they are ready to open fully, each library will continue to offer help by phone and e-mail and will initiate and expand no-contact services such as virtual programming and curbside delivery.

Bentley Memorial Library currently offers these services:

Outside Pickup: *We continue our outside pickup service, which we have offered since March 30. Reserve your items through our online catalog (Bentley.biblio.org) or contact us at 860-646-7349 or bentley@biblio.org. We'll place your items outside for you to pick up during the hours we are working in the building.*

Returns: *Our book drop is open; returned items are removed to an off-site location to quarantine for 72 hours before being checked in here.*

Staff Hours: *The building remains closed to the public at this time, but a member of the staff will be available to assist you by telephone or email, and outside pickup will be available, during our normal hours: Monday–Thursday, 10 a.m. – 8:00 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.*

About the Connecticut State Library: The Connecticut State Library is an Executive Branch agency of the State of Connecticut. The State Library provides a variety of library information, archival, public records, museum, and administrative services to citizens of Connecticut, as well as the employees and officials of all three branches of State government. The Connecticut State Archives and the Museum of Connecticut History are components of the State Library. Visit the State Library at museumofcthistory.org/ | twitter.com/LibraryofCT | facebook.com/CTStateLibrary | <https://ctstatelibrary.org> | flickr.com/photos/ctarchives/.