FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Worcester Public Library Announces Closing

Worcester, MA – Out of an abundance of caution the Worcester Public Library has made the difficult decision to temporarily close all library locations as of March 16, until further notice.

WPL is your public library. Our community’s health and well-being is our top priority. We have made the decision to close due to the heightened concerns about the spread of COVID-19 for the safety of our patrons and staff. We are deeply committed to serving the public, and the best way to do that at this time is to help minimize the spread of COVID-19. This is a rapidly changing situation; please continue to check our website at mywpl.org for updates and more information.

Please note that Sunday, March 15 from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. will be the last day that patrons can pick up holds or borrow items from the Main Library until library locations reopen. The Worcester Talking Book Library will continue its regular remote services.

Our dedicated staff will continue to report to work during our normal operating hours. Staff will be answering phones and serving the public virtually to the best of our ability. We know that WPL is a critical resource for our community, so we are taking steps to support our patrons as much as possible during this temporary closure:
- All library materials currently checked out will be automatically renewed. All late fees will be suspended. Holds will also be suspended. Please note, this change may not be reflected immediately in library accounts.
- Please feel free to keep materials during this time. If you have items you would like to return, please use our book drops at the Main Library and Frances Perkins Branch locations at any time.
- Staff will be answering the phones and helping patrons during normal business hours Monday through Saturday at the Main Library, and Monday through Friday at the Frances Perkins Branch.
- The Library is working to increase awareness of our vast array of online resources including our Ask a Librarian service, e-resources such as eBooks and eAudiobooks, research databases, and much more. To learn more, visit: mywpl.org/article/library-resources-you-can-access-home.

With the rapidly changing circumstances of COVID-19, WPL is closely monitoring the official recommendations from city, state and federal agencies. We will continue to update our plan and our communications as we have further information.

Please continue to check the City of Worcester’s COVID-19 webpage at worcesterma.gov/coronavirus for updates, and contact the Worcester Department of Health and Emergency Management with questions on COVID-19 at health@worcesterma.gov. It is important that we all do our part to keep our communities healthy and safe.