Because our world has changed since the library planned its Space to Place construction project, we recently disseminated a survey to ask residents for new input on issues such as:

- Do you still want a Teen Center / separate space for Teens in the library?
- How important is STEAM (STEM) programming?
- Does our community still need meeting spaces in the library?

Some residents chose to question the library decision to remain in Phase 3 of the library reopening plan. Those questions and answers follow and are written, as requested, so that people unable to attend tonight can read the information themselves. The Library Update is posted on the library website at chathamlibrary.org after every Library Update program.
Why isn’t the building open to residents?

The Board of Trustees’ judgment is that the building is not safe enough to ensure prevention of virus spread. *Board of Trustees President’s letter was published multiple places and is posted at https://chathamlibrary.org/library-reopening-plan*

As a joint institution, the library looks to guidance from the leadership of Chatham Borough and Chatham Township, and their plans to reopen their respective municipal buildings. Further, we look to advice by the health officers of both towns.

The library offers a wide array of services that can safely and without contact accomplish its mission of serving the community.
Many libraries have allowed residents inside subject to limitations. Why is LOC less safe?

Our building is different than other buildings and we had no way to improve ventilation while continuing to control a humidity issue we have had since 2017. The problem is intended to be corrected with the pending Bridging Space to Place Project construction project, which includes replacing at least six (6) of 14 HVAC systems.
Why are stores and other businesses open but the library is not?

The main difference is that the library is a repository of books. Some schools and businesses can increase ventilation simply by opening the windows. This is not an option for the library, since we have to protect the books from humidity. Opening the windows can potentially destroy the entire book collection.
Will the Book Sale Happen?

YES ... the Friends Book Sale is still set up in the library and ready to go as soon as the Board of Trustees decides how and when residents may enter the library.
At this time due to the pandemic and the accumulation of books since last year, neither the library nor Friends can accept donations.

Why isn’t there a reopening plan for the library?

The Board of Trustees has a reopening plan in 5 phases, which was disseminated between April and June when we entered Phase 3. We have not moved beyond Phase 3 and the slides were dropped from these updates because nothing changed.

The restored steps follow.
Library of the Chathams
In Accordance with LOC Reopening Plan
Adopted May 19, 2020

Adapted from *Best Practices For Reopening New Jersey Libraries*, Taskforce On Post COVID-19 Alignment, Trends and Strategies (TOPCATS)

Cleaning/Sanitizing Routine based on CDC’s *Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools*
Phase 1: Library Closed to the Public

This phase will allow library to comply with strict public safety and health directives.
Phase 2: Library Prepares for Opening

This phase will allow the library to prepare for a return to work before opening to the public.
Phase 3: Library Operates with Limited Services *

This phase will allow library to resume some operations and services using cautionary steps.

* Current phase
Phase 3: Takeout Services

• Residents may place holds in the library catalog
• Residents may phone or email library to reserve items or for reading/viewing suggestions
Phase 4: Library Open with Expanded Services

This phase will allow library to expand operations and increase services.
Phase 4: Residents May Enter Library

- Masks will be required
- Limited access to collections
- Time limits may be considered to maintain safe number in building
- Possibly no in-person programming
Phase 5: Library Operate in a New Normal

This phase will prepare the library for an extended period of public health disruption.
Right Now

Library Takeout Service: You may request items by placing holds in the library catalog at www.chathamlibrary.org or making requests by phone or email.
1. Come to the back entrance of the library
2. Go up the ramp, following social distancing rules
3. Enter the back foyer, one person at a time
4. Find your items – they are arranged alphabetically by last name
5. Your books are already checked out to you – just take them and exit down the steps.
6. Enjoy Your Books
Home Delivery

If you are a Chatham resident who is homebound for health reasons, library staff and volunteers will deliver your books right to your door!

Call 973-635-0603 to set up home delivery.
Virtual Browsing

Use a smartphone or tablet with Facetime or the Google Duo app.

Call the library at 973-635-0603 or email librarian@chathamlibrary.org to set up an appointment.
Why Don’t I see Library Programs on social media?

Many of our events fill to registration capacity just from the library eNewsletter and are not promoted further.

Residents can sign up to receive the eNewsletter at: https://chathamlibrary.org/library-newsletter/
### Calendar for this Week

**February 2021**

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<td>4p Chess for Kids Group 1</td>
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<td>10a Yoga Storytime with Mi</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<td>10a Music with Carolyn Den</td>
<td>4p Readers’ Roundtable Virt</td>
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<td>5p Chess for Kids Group 2</td>
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Library of the Chathams
How does the library keep people safe?

- Patrons are allowed to enter the Takeout area one person at a time, wearing a mask.
- Staff, as well as contractors and repairmen, are required to have their temperature taken upon entering the building, fill out a health questionnaire, and wear a mask at all times while in the building.
- Staff workplaces have been rearranged to ensure at least a 6-foot distance. Social distancing and handwashing rules are followed.
- All frequently touched surfaces are disinfected twice daily.
- All returned materials are quarantined for seven (7) days.
- Plexiglas barriers have been installed at every service desk.
- Disinfecting wipes/hand sanitizer dispensers are placed throughout.
- The HVAC system has been updated with germicidal UV lights.
Questions and Suggestions Welcome

If you would like to give your input through the library planning survey:
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2PWQJLH

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kbrodsky@chathamlibrary.org