



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020

### **Library by Appointment @ Sherbrooke**

Eastern Counties Regional Library (ECRL) is very pleased to announce that beginning August 19<sup>th</sup>, the Sherbrooke Branch Library will begin offering appointments to Library members who wish to visit the library. Sherbrooke Library is the first ECRL location to open with controlled access for the public. This exciting service addition continues the process of adapting Library services for the new normal and is guided by ECRL's Pandemic Response Plan. The plan was carefully researched and approved by the ECRL Board. It is publicly available on our website, [ecrl.ca](http://ecrl.ca).

As Sherbrooke is a rural community where many users have to drive to get to the library, ECRL is offering scheduled access to ensure that those who wish to visit the branch can do so without being impacted negatively by physical distancing requirements. Library by Appointment will allow the Sherbrooke Library Assistant to serve members and ensure that the capacity of the library facility is kept to a safe level to maintain physical distancing. As of August 19, members of the public can call the Sherbrooke Library at (902) 522-2180 to book an appointment.

During a library appointment, members will be asked to wear a mask, maintain proper physical distancing, and sanitize their hands before using the computer or browsing the collection. To ensure safe physical distancing, the number of visitors at Sherbrooke will be limited to a maximum of 3 people at a time. Accommodations will be made for those unable to wear a mask for medical reasons.

All library appointments will be 30 minutes. Users will be limited to one visit per business day and, depending upon demand, may be further limited to one visit per week. Please be aware that seating and computers within the branch have been reduced to ensure physical distancing.

The public computer will require booking when the appointment is made. This will help ensure that as many people have access to this technology as possible, while also allowing staff time to properly clean computer stations between uses. Keyboards and mice will be disinfected between each use and at the end of each day.

“Physical distancing requirements mean we can’t return to service as it was before COVID-19. For example, hosting community events and meetings won’t be possible. Despite these changes, staff are delighted that we can now offer Library members the opportunity to browse collections, use the computer and the WiFi. ” said CEO Laura Emery. “I want to reassure users who prefer to receive library materials using our Borrow by Mail or Curbside Pickup services that these services will continue to be available. Library by Appointment is the latest service option for those who wish to visit the branch.”

Local residents can stay up to date on services offered at the Sherbrooke Library by calling 902-522-2180, by visiting ECRL’s website often, or following ECRL on social media: [facebook.com/ECRLibrary](https://facebook.com/ECRLibrary) | [twitter.com/ecrlibrary](https://twitter.com/ecrlibrary).

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