

POLICY: PUBLIC EMERGENCIES**Approved: July 27, 2021**

In the event of a public emergency such as a serious infectious disease outbreak, natural disaster or other catastrophic situation involving personal and public risk, the Webster County Library (WCL) will attempt to follow established guidelines for service and business continuity. WCL may temporarily suspend all library services to comply with a recommendation or mandate for closure issued by public health or government officials at the local, county, state, or federal level. WCL will consult relevant guidelines and follow instructions from federal, state and local government authorities and agencies before implementing emergency measures.

Measures taken to serve the needs of the community in crisis and to slow the spread of illness may include closing physical facilities, limiting or canceling meetings and public gatherings, requiring quarantines, and/or implementing other social distancing measures. WCL will strive to ensure that the essential business activities of the library can be maintained for an extended period with limited staff and reduced hours, if needed. At the discretion of the Director in consultation with the Board of Trustees, WCL may close, reduce operating hours, or temporarily limit services in the event that the number of available and unaffected staff is insufficient to maintain basic library services. The Director in consultation with the Board of Trustees will determine when to resume normal service levels. The Director in consultation with the Board of Trustees will make decisions regarding staff compensation during an emergency.