

Walpole Public Library Inclement Weather Policy

In order to fulfill its mission of public service the Walpole Public Library will make every reasonable effort to open to the public as scheduled, consistent with safe access for the public and staff.

Inclement weather can cause transportation problems and locally hazardous conditions with possible power outages. The library will close, delay opening or close ahead of schedule when the weather becomes hazardous to the health and/or safety of the public and/or library staff.

The decision to close, postpone opening or close early due to inclement weather will be made by the Director in conjunction with the Library Trustee Chairperson, Town of Walpole administration and actual observed local weather conditions. In the Director's absence, the senior staff member according to the library organizational chart will be responsible for that decision. National or Massachusetts weather service advisories concerning travel during storm conditions will be major factors in making these kinds of decisions. Other factors include: road conditions, safe access to the building and a properly cleared parking lot.

Decisions about inclement weather will be made as early as possible. Every effort will be made to inform the library patrons and staff by 8:00 a.m., two (2) hours before the library is scheduled to open to the public. A message will be recorded on the library's main phone number (508-660-7340) in the event of a delayed opening or a full day closing.

In the event that inclement weather forces the library to close before its regularly scheduled time, the message on the main number of the library will be changed at least one-half hour before the library closes.

Library patrons and staff are encouraged to check the message on the main library number or the library web site before coming to the library.