

As the library draws nearer to reestablishing our high quality pre-pandemic customer service standards, our library management team is making informative, incremental steps towards that goal. As science continues to offer clearer insights into the limitations of COVID-19, especially as it pertains to virus sustainability on surfaces, as well as the increased availability of the vaccines to the public, the library management team has begun to smartly define the parameters of our current enhanced sanitization schedule/procedures and their relevancy to the daily health safeguards for our patrons and library staff. These parameters have led the library management team to initiate plans to phase out the daily, enhanced, after-hours sanitization procedures that are currently managed by an interdepartmental team of library staff. At present, the areas that are part of the enhanced sanitization schedule conducted by these after-hours teams include the public computers, random table/chair sets, elevator, countertops, soft chairs, service desks, study rooms, catalog computers, self check-outs, and railings/door knobs that are found in the vestibule, foyer, and main staircase. The goal is to return these duties back to their daily and weekly schedules under the sole supervision of the facilities custodial staff with a partial transfer occurring June 4 as the library extends its weekday hours back to Monday-Thursday, 9-8pm, and Fridays, 9-6pm. Then, the full transfer starting on September 7, when the library resumes Saturday, 9-3pm and Sundays, 12-4pm.

As the facilities department gradually retakes responsibility for these daily tasks, we will ease their transfer by utilizing our new sanitization equipment, such as the Hypochlorous ULV Foggers and contactless high pressure/steamer restroom machine. The combination of these new resources will reduce our cleaning times by nearly 25%. Consequently, we can use these time savings to restructure our cleaning schedules and add all of these areas mentioned above that currently completed by the after-hours teams back into our daily rotation and, in time, safely return the majority of these tasks to their normal weekly routines. This new arrangement will not only maintain the current enhanced sanitization safeguards for both the public and library staff, but will allow non-custodial staff the liberty to return to their customary departmental duties in a gradual and controlled process.

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