

## **Hingham Public Library**

### **Food and Beverage Policy**

The Hingham Public Library strives to maintain a pleasant, welcoming, and comfortable environment for our public. We also strive to provide an allergy-friendly environment for our patrons with food allergies. Therefore, for the comfort and safety of our all our patrons, food and beverages are allowed in designated areas of the Library according to the following guidelines:

- Beverages with a secure lid are permitted throughout the building except in the Historical Room.
- Food is permitted only in the café area on the second floor, in the outside courtyard, in the Young Adult Room, in the Whiton and Fearing Meeting Rooms, and at specially designated tables in the Adult Reading Rooms.
- No food or drink will be permitted in the Storytime Activity Room at any time.
- In order to reduce exposure to potential allergens, all areas where food is permitted will have at least one table which is designated allergy-friendly and nut-free for the use of patrons with food allergies.
- Refuse from food or beverages should be promptly placed in a trash receptacle, and empty food containers should be put away appropriately.

From time to time, refreshments are served at Library-initiated programs. We will endeavor to offer alternative refreshments that are free of the eight common allergens at these programs (milk, eggs, peanuts, tree nuts, fish, shellfish, soy, and wheat). The Library does not monitor food brought in by outside groups.

While we strive to be allergy-aware and allergy-friendly, we cannot guarantee that the Library will be completely allergen-free, and persons with food allergies (or the parents/caretakers of minors with food allergies) are responsible for monitoring refreshments served at the Library. The Library Director is available to discuss measures to reduce the likelihood of a food allergy reaction at library programs and activities and to address any special requests or concerns regarding specific food allergies. The Director will strive to make reasonable accommodations for such concerns.

Good public service requires that the library environment be conducive to study, reading, and research. This necessitates the willingness of all library users to be considerate of the rights of others to work safely and undisturbed. If, in the judgment of staff, the presence of food or drink is compromising that experience, a patron may be asked to remove it.