Boston, MA — March 12, 2020 — The Boston Athenæum will close today at 11:30 a.m. for a thorough cleaning, following two school group visits that raise a slight possibility of COVID-19 exposure. The cleaning will be completed by Sunday and the building will re-open on Monday, March 16.

Although the Boston Public Health Commission advised that there is a very low risk of exposure at the Athenæum, the most diligent course possible is being pursued.

The Athenæum recommends its staff, members, and visitors follow all public health guidelines.

As a reminder, we offer a book mailing service to members, and many videos of our events are available online.

ABOUT THE BOSTON ATHENÆUM
The Boston Athenæum, “Boston’s best kept secret” (Boston.com) and one of the most distinguished libraries in the nation, was founded in 1807. Its landmark 1849 building and architecturally significant reading rooms at 10½ Beacon Street welcome readers, thinkers, writers, and learners in the heart of Boston.

Highlights of the library’s holdings include the King’s Chapel Library collection, with roots in the 17th-century settlement of Boston; rare publications in Native American languages; the personal library of George Washington; historic early European printed works; and numerous works of fine art, including portraits of notable Americans such as Hannah Adams, John Marshall, and Alexander Hamilton, and by artists such as Gilbert Stuart, John Singer Sargent, Allan Rohan Crite, and Polly Thayer Starr. An extensive collection on the art of the book includes examples from many eras of bookbinding and fine printing, as well as contemporary artists’ books.

Learn more at bostonathenaeum.org.

CONTACT
Maria Daniels
daniels@bostonathenaeum.org
Director of Communications and Patron Services
617-784-9488

###