

Durham Public Library Services Update



04/15/21

Dear Friends,

Greetings from the Library! Finally, Spring has sprung and there is a light at the end of the tunnel! As the COVID-19 environment evolves, we are poised to adjust our services and occupancy to restore library services to the community as quickly as possible. As we enter Phase II: Step 2 of our Library Re-opening Plan we are happy to announce the following changes:

Effective Monday, April 15, 2021:

- Materials owned by the Durham Public Library will *no longer* be quarantined. This decision is based on data that shows that the risk of being infected by COVID-19 fomites found on books surfaces is minimal. Exposure to respiratory droplets is the primary mode of transmission of the virus and hand hygiene remains the most effective way to combat the risk of infections from surfaces. We encourage patrons who have concerns to continue to use our contactless pickup service. Books reserved using this service can be quarantined at the Library by simply waiting 72-hrs to pick up materials after receiving the notification that items are available. For more information about how to use this service, please click [here](#).

Effective Monday, May 3, 2021:

What is changing:

- Up to 30** socially distanced patrons may be allowed into the building at one time.
- Open hours will extend to 8:00 PM on Monday and Tuesdays.
- Depending on the volume of patrons, demand, and the Library staff's ability to maintain social distancing, we welcome patrons to stay **up to 1** hour browsing and using our computers, printer, and

copier.

- Socially distanced Xbox and computer use will now be allowed in the Young Adult Room. Social distancing shall be monitored by Library staff.
- Study Rooms (previously closed) will be available for single occupant use.

What is NOT changing:

- Senior and high-risk user hours from 10:00 AM to Noon, Tuesday - Friday.
- Adherence to CDC guidance to maintain the safety of patrons and staff.
- High hygiene and sanitation standards.
- Social distancing and mask use in the building.
- Contactless pickup for reserved materials will continue.
- Programming will continue to be virtual/digital at this time.
- Meeting/Programming rooms, bookstore, café, will remain closed.

We know so much more than we did at the very beginning of this pandemic. We have been open for limited services since June 29th and we are confident in our ability to provide a safe environment to our patrons of all ages. We look forward to a future return to normalcy and better days ahead, which now appears will be sooner than later.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions you might have about our services and access. We can be reached by phone at (603) 868-6699 or email at durhampl@gmail.com.

Thank you for all your patience and support for the Durham Public Library during this time. We WILL get through this together!

Respectfully,

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