

May 29

Message from the Director, Julie Milavec:

As Illinois moves into Phase 3 of the Restore Illinois plan, the Downers Grove Public Library is working on planning its next steps in its phased reopening.

Starting June 1, the library's Curbside Pickup service will be extended. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., and 3:00 - 7:00 p.m.. Since launching Curbside Pickup on May 20, the library has served approximately 100 cars a day, and processed through over 2,300 holds. We appreciate the community's patience as we learn our new normal of service for physical materials, and get through our holds list as fast as possible with average wait times lasting about a week. Many staff members have shared how much joy it brings them to see patrons excited for their new materials!

Launching Curbside Pickup has been a huge step forward in the library's phased reopening plan. Next, the management team will work hard on identifying ways the library can be open for limited hours and services to the public. This next step in the library's phased reopening plan will take a lot of consideration, planning, and design. How the library approaches its next step will have a large impact on the community's health. It is essential that we get it right, as we circulate thousands of materials to hundreds of families each week.

Included in our planning discussions will be how we rearrange the physical space of the building to allow for social distancing, which services will be available to the community at the start of our building reopening, and how to continually clean and disinfect high-traffic areas. Of course, this is just the tip of the iceberg for what needs to be considered before we reopen the building to the public. We appreciate all of the community's support and patience as we prepare this next step in our phased reopening.

In the meantime, all of our virtual services and Curbside Pickup remain available and open for patrons to use. A great month of programming is ahead of us, including a book discussion, a virtual teen art show, Summer Reading Club, and more. Our newest database, Universal Class, offers over 700 classes and training for individuals on a wide range of topics, ranging from homeschooling and professional development to hobbies and crafts. If you're missing our reference desk, the virtual chat hours have been extended, and are now available from 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Our librarians would love to help you find what you need!

I hope to update you soon with news on our next steps in our phased reopening plan. Thank you for your support of the library.