



Julie Milavec <jmilavec@dglibrary.org>

Next Steps in DGPL's Phase 4 Restoring Services and Hours

2 messages

Julie Milavec <jmilavec@dglibrary.org>

Wed, Apr 7, 2021 at 4:58 PM

To: All Staff <staff@dglibrary.org>

Bcc: libraryboard@dglibrary.org

Hi all,

Thank you for always doing your best to serve our community. I really appreciate how hard you are working. We've been through so many changes in the past 13 months, sometimes I can't remember how we did things before COVID! I appreciate your flexibility, can-do attitude, and sense of humor that gets us through the rough patches. We work together to do what's best for staff and patrons while keeping everyone safe. It's time to take the next steps in our phased reopening, so more change is on the way.

First and most noticeable, the PA announcements will return to the hourly schedule instead of every 30 minutes as of tomorrow.

You may have seen the [CDC's recent changes to cleaning and disinfecting guidelines](#). Continued research shows that COVID-19 mainly spreads through respiratory droplets in the air, including [this very recent research](#) from the CDC. The RAILS Libraries section of the [COVID-19 Pulse Page](#) provides information from additional studies. In response to this new information and guidance, RAILS is ending its quarantine requirement, effective Monday, April 12. Following the RAILS requirements, DGPL will end quarantine of materials on that date.

Also based on the CDC guidelines and most recent research, cleaning of high touch surfaces in the library will revert to once per day on Monday, May 3. Signs will be posted in public areas in the week leading up to the change, informing patrons that staff will no longer be cleaning PCs, tables, and chairs between uses and encouraging good hand hygiene. Cleaning and disinfecting supplies will continue to be available for staff to use as you choose or see a need.

Correlated to the RAILS quarantine change, newspapers will return for public use next week as well. A sign cautioning patrons to use good hand hygiene will be placed by the newspapers.

Over the next few weeks, additional tables and chairs for reservation by the public will be placed in use. A few tables and chairs will also be added that do not require reservations. Laptops will be available for checkout, to be used at the reserved tables. With the user experience in mind, Computer Help Desk staff will be able to reserve tables at the time of laptop check out, using the same reservation procedure currently in use at the ATS and Kids Room Desks.

Increases to hours of operation are being planned with tentative target dates. These are listed to give you time to prepare, but are subject to change:

- 5/3 - hours of operation expand to 9 a.m. Monday-Saturday
- 6/1 - hours of operation expand to 8 p.m. Monday-Friday
- 7/5 - hours of operation return to full pre-pandemic 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Monday-Friday, Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Sunday 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

We are planning to move alternate staff workspaces from Study Rooms to the Meeting Room. Service desk staff will be discussing procedures and rules to reopen Study Rooms to the public. Seven socially distanced staff workstations will be available in the Meeting Room with additional socially distanced work tables for projects like assembling take and make program bags. Staff will continue to be able to reserve Study Rooms for online meetings, etc. This would be followed by at least one week of a soft opening of Study rooms for public use, to allow for adjustment to rules as needed. The Conference Rooms, Program Room, Quiet Study Room, and Cafe remain closed to the public. As furniture is reintroduced to the public floor, the Conference Rooms, Program Room, and Quiet Study Room will resume use as space permits. The Cafe will remain closed to the public until mask mandates are lifted, allowing for the public to consume food and beverages in the library.

I know that's a lot to take in. At any time, these plans may change. Remember November when we were planning to reintroduce tables and chairs and wound up closing again instead? Those plans were ready after we reopened and were implemented in March instead. My husband keeps telling me not to plan anything more than 2 weeks in advance, because COVID. But planning is in my nature, so I keep doing it, while trying to stay ready for anything. We'll continue to

follow the latest guidance from the CDC, IDPH, and DCHD, whatever it is. We remain hopeful that we'll be able to hold a vaccination event for staff on-site soon. Your health and safety are our priority. In the meantime, keep checking vaccinefinder.org for vaccination appointments! Now that all government employees are eligible, I know more staff are having success finding vaccination appointments. Employer Paid Sick Leave (EPSL) is available if you experience any side effects from vaccination. Check out [our COVID webpage](#) for more information.

Thank you for your dedication and willingness to take on the challenges of serving the public in a pandemic. Our work makes a difference in this community every day. I am proud of DGPL's service to our community throughout the past 13 months and look forward to our next steps toward a new normal.

Stay safe, stay healthy, and be well.

Bcc: Board of Library Trustees

Julie M. Milavec | Library Director

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To: Julie Milavec <jmilavec@dglibrary.org>

Thu, Apr 8, 2021 at 3:21 PM

Thanks for the update, Julie. It has been a long and winding road for all of us.

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