

Reopening FAQ for Patrons

Staff should anticipate being asked these questions and provide the following answers:

Accessing the Library

- **What are the hours of operation?**
 - Library building will be open to staff:
M-F, 8am-9 pm
Sat, 8am-5pm
Sun, 12pm-5pm
See your Manager or Supervisor if you need to access the building at other times.
 - The building will be open to the public:
M-F, 10am-7pm
Sat, 10am-4pm
Sun 1pm-4 pm
- **Where/How will staff and visitors enter and exit the building?**
 - Staff will continue to enter and exit through Forest Street staff entrance.
 - Visitors will enter the building on the Parking Lot entrance, through the sliding, ADA accessible door and form a queue down the sidewalk to Forest Street.
 - Visitors will exit the building through the Parking Lot Doors. These doors will be locked from the outside to prevent visitors from entering them. Visitors with accessibility needs will be aided by staff in exiting through the ADA accessible door.

The Library Building

- **Is there a limit on the amount of people in the building at one time?**
 - Yes. The maximum capacity for publicly accessible spaces in the building is limited to 100. This includes both staff and patrons in public spaces only.
 - Additional staff will be able to work in non-publicly accessible spaces, i.e., workrooms, study rooms, staff lounge, etc.
- **Is there an imposed time limit per visit?**
 - Yes. We will encourage visitors to limit their visit to one hour per day; although we will not be policing the length of stay unless someone is really abusing the rule.
- **Do I need to wear a mask to enter the building?**
 - Yes. All staff and visitors are expected to wear a face mask in the building for the duration of their stay. Staff working alone in private offices or study rooms may remove their masks.
 - No visitors will be permitted in the building without wearing a face mask. No exceptions. No mask, no internal service. If a visitor requires an accommodation, he/she can use Curbside Pickup or contact the library for help.

- **What is DGPL doing to keep patrons safe?**
 - We will remind visitors of our health and safety expectations (wear face mask, cleaning hands, maintaining social distance, etc.) by intermittently playing a PSA over the intercom system. Staff will also be encouraged to verbally remind patrons of the health and safety expectations.
 - Directional arrows will be placed on the floor, indicating the flow of traffic and where visitors should walk.
 - Aisle and elevator capacity will be limited to one person or one family at a time.
 - Washrooms will be available, but all water fountains and water bottle fillers will be unavailable for public use.
 - A thorough cleaning of all high-touch surfaces will be scheduled every two hours the building is open to the public.
 - Carts will be clearly marked to accept unwanted library materials.
 - All public areas in the library that would encourage group congregation will be off limits, including study rooms, conference rooms, STEM room, quiet study room, training lab, Café, etc.

Staff Work and Staff Expectations in the Building

- **What is DGPL doing to keep staff safe?**
 - Staff will be expected to wear a face mask at all times while in the building, and other PPE (face shields, gloves) as needed.
 - Staff will honor 6' social distance from others.
 - Staff will wash hands frequently.
 - Staff will clean and disinfect all used surfaces, computers, equipment, etc. after use.
 - A thorough cleaning of all high-touch surfaces will be scheduled every two hours the building is open to the public.
 - Staff will honor maximum capacity limits of all employee shared spaces, and call ahead if they need to enter another department's workroom.
 - Study Rooms 1-8: 1 person per room
 - Training Lab: 2 people
 - Staff Lounge: 8 people
 - Administration and offices: 5 people
 - Access Services Workroom: 6 people
 - ATS Workroom: 8
 - Circulation Workroom: 10 people (including managers' office)
 - IT Workroom: 3 people
 - KR Workroom: 3 people
 - PR Workroom: 1 person

- **What work is DGPL staff doing in the building?**
 - Shelves will shelve materials before and after public service hours.
 - Curbside Pickup will continue to operate at all times the library is open to the public.
 - Staff will answer reference questions and general computer questions.
 - Staff will provide one-on-one, socially distant assistance and limited assistance over the phone, virtually, or via email.

Services

- **What should I expect when I visit the library?**
 - During Phase 3 of reopening, visitors can expect to have limited services and limited hours of access, but will be able to browse the collection and reserve a public computer.
- **Can I register for a library card?**
 - Yes, Downers Grove residents can get a library card at the Check Out Desk.
- **Will I be able to hang out with my kids, play video games, or sit and read or study?**
 - No. All soft seating, and most tables and chairs will be removed throughout the building.
 - The quiet study room, Media Lab, café, Teen Central gaming, and the STEM Room will not be accessible to the public.
 - All children's toys, manipulatives, and play areas will not be accessible to the public.
 - All children under the age of 13 will need to be accompanied by and remain with an adult at all times while in the building.
- **Will all of your collections be available for checkout?**
 - Not all of them. Newspapers and Anything Emporium items will not be available. Books, audiobooks/Playaways, movies (DVDs and Blu-Rays), CDs, puzzles, kids room resource kits, and magazines will be available.
- **Can I book a meeting room, conference room, or study room?**
 - No. All room reservations will be suspended until we enter into Phase 5 of our reopening plan.
- **Will I be able to get help with notary services?**
 - Notary services will not be available until Library Reopening Plan Phase 5.
- **Will I be able to get help with book recommendations or reference questions?**
 - Yes. The Ask Us desk and Children's Services desk will be staffed to help answer questions and provide recommendations.
- **Will I be able to claim my Summer Reading Club and Math Club prizes?**
 - Yes. Prize tables will be set up in both the Kids Room and on the second floor for prize pick up.

- **Will I be able to use a photocopier or a scanner?**
 - Yes. The photocopiers located in the Kids Room and on the second floor, as well as the scanning station, will all be available for self-service. No person-to-person help will be available.
- **Can I book an in-person appointment for help with my device or computer needs?**
 - No. Staff will be able to provide in-person, socially distant assistance and limited assistance over the phone, virtually, or via email. Handouts will be available to instruct patrons on how to use online databases, the scanning station, download ebooks, etc.

Computers

- **Will I be able to use a computer during my visit?**
 - Yes. DGPL cardholders only may make a reservation to use a public computer for one 45-minute session per day. Appointments can be made by calling the library or visiting dglibrary.org/covid19.
- **Will I be able to get computer help inside the library?**
 - Yes, limited computer assistance will be available via the chat feature on each public computer. No person-to-person help will be available.
- **Will I be able to print out materials from home and pick up on site?**
 - Yes. Print from home for Curbside Pickup will be an option. For more information, visit dglibrary.org/covid19.

Programming

- **When will I be able to attend library programs?**
 - All in-house library programs have been suspended through August 31.
 - Many virtual programs are available through the DGPL website, including storytimes, book discussions, crafts, lectures, etc.

Checking Out, Returning Materials

- **How do I return materials to the library?**
 - All books, audiobooks/Playaways, movies (DVDs and Blu-rays), CDs, puzzles, kids room resource kits, and magazines may be returned in the outside book returns or in the book return bin near the entrance.
 - All Anything Emporium items should be returned to their respective departments.
- **Can I visit another library to check out library materials?**
 - Other libraries' rules vary. Please call the other library or check their website for their rules.
- **How can I check out materials during my visit?**
 - Visitors can check out materials at any of the self-check stations located throughout the building, or at the Check Out Desk on the first floor.

- **Can I pick up my holds in the building instead of using Curbside Pickup?**
 - Yes. Visitors may pick up their holds at the Holds Desk by the library café.
- **How is DGPL making sure materials are safe to checkout?**
 - All returned materials, and all materials left on reshelving carts in the library will be quarantined for 3 days before being returned to the shelves.
- **Why does a returned item still show up as checked out on my account?**
 - All returned items will be quarantined for 3 days before they can be checked in; no overdue fines will accrue.

Fines and Fees

- **Will I be charged fines for overdue materials?**
 - All overdue fines will be waived through August 2, 2020.
- **How can I pay for past overdue fines and fees?**
 - Patrons can pay online, at any of the self-check stations, or at the Circulation Services desk.

Holds

- **How many holds can I have at one time?**
 - Patrons are limited to 20 holds at a time for the foreseeable future.
- **What should I do if I no longer want the item I have on hold?**
 - Patrons can remove their own holds online or call or email the library to have holds removed.
 - If holds have been filled and the patron no longer wants the materials, they can call or email the library to have them removed.
- **How long will my holds be held for me?**
 - Holds will be held for 3 days, including weekends.
- **How long will it take to get my holds?**
 - It takes *approximately* 1 week to fill holds, but that is not guaranteed.
- **Can someone else pick up my holds for me?**
 - Yes. Patrons can have a proxy borrower pick up holds.
- **When will I be able to place holds on and borrow materials from other libraries?**
 - SWAN is still working out the details for enabling reciprocal holds and borrowing. Exact dates are TBD.
- **Can I place holds on DGPL items even though I don't have a DGPL card?**
 - No. But non-DGPL cardholders are welcome to visit the library and check out materials that are on shelf.

[Reopening FAQ for Staff](#)

Staff should be aware of the following expectations and anticipate some challenging conversations and/or situations with patrons.

Staff Work and Staff Expectations in the Building

- **What is DGPL doing to keep staff safe?**
 - Staff will be expected to wear a face mask at all times while in the building, and other PPE (face shields, gloves) as needed.
 - Staff will honor 6' social distance from others.
 - Staff will wash hands frequently.
 - Staff will clean and disinfect all used surfaces, computers, equipment, etc after use.
 - A thorough cleaning of all high-touch surfaces will be scheduled every two hours the building is open to the public.
 - Staff will honor maximum capacity limits of all employee shared spaces, and call ahead if they need to enter another department's workroom.
 - Study Rooms 1-8: 1 person per room
 - Training Lab: 2 people
 - Staff Lounge: 8 people
 - Administration and offices: 5 people
 - Access Services Workroom: 6 people
 - ATS Workroom: 8
 - Circulation Workroom: 10 people (including managers' office)
 - IT Workroom: 3 people
 - KR Workroom: 3 people
 - PR Workroom: 1 person
- **When will I be expected to work 100 percent of my scheduled hours? Will I have to come into the building?**
 - All staff will be expected to resume their full schedule no later than July 6, 2020.
 - In-library shifts will increase.
 - Staff who are able to telecommute will be expected to do so, with the approval of their department manager.

Talking Points for Staff

- **What should I do if a patron becomes angry and impatient with our rules or service?**
 - Take a deep breath. Remain calm. Be respectful.
 - **Apologize and repeat back to the patron why he is upset:**

“I am really sorry about: your frustration/your inconvenience/your delay/ the limitations of our service today. I understand that you just want to check out materials/use the public computer/get help with your reference question/stay in the building/get one-on-one help with your device.”
 - **Explain why the rule exists:**
 - “But we need to maintain a maximum building capacity of 100 people/limit computer reservations to one session per day/form a line queue to answer your questions/restrict visits to one hour per day/maintain 6’ of social distance/adhere to a strict cleaning regimen/minimize person-to-person contact, for everyone’s health and safety.
“We are doing everything we can to make sure everyone stays healthy and safe and to make sure the building can remain open. We cannot take any risks.”
“We need to limit visits to one hour so that we can serve as many of our patrons as possible.”
 - **Offer options/solutions:**
 - “If you would prefer not to wait in line to enter the building, you can use Curbside Pickup, or request a home delivery.”
 - “If you would prefer not to wait in line to browse the collection, you are free to come back when we aren’t as busy.”
 - “If you would like to give me your name and number with the items you are looking for, I would be happy to collect them for you and call you when they are ready for pick up.”
 - “This handout explains where to find the online accommodation form or you can call and let us know the type of assistance you need and someone will get back to you within a day or two.”
 - “You can register for another computer session up to 7 days in advance before you leave today.”
 - “Here is a handout on how to download Hoopla. I will do my best to talk you through the steps. Would you like to try this together?”
 - **Call the In Charge person if the patron refuses to comply, or becomes belligerent, harassing, etc.**

- **What should I do if a patron refuses to wear a mask before entering the building?**
 - Take a deep breath. Remain calm. Be respectful. Talk in a friendly manner.
 - **Apologize and remind the patron of our rule:**
 - “I’m sorry, but masks are mandatory for all patrons who wish to enter the building. There are no exceptions. If you choose not to wear a mask, you will not be allowed into the building.”
 - **Explain why the rule exists**
 - “Masks are mandatory for everyone’s health and safety.”
 - **Offer options/solutions**
 - “I understand that you do not want/can’t wear a mask. I suggest using Curbside Pickup. This handout explains where to find the online accommodation form or you can call and let us know the type of assistance you need and someone will get back to you within a day or two.”
 - **Call the In Charge person if the patron refuses to comply, or becomes belligerent, harassing, etc.**
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- **What should I do if a patron takes his mask off/lets it slip while in the building and refuses to put it back on?**
 - Take a deep breath. Remain calm. Be respectful. Talk in a friendly manner.
 - **Apologize and remind the patron of our rule**
 - “I’m sorry, but masks are mandatory for all patrons who wish to stay in the building. There are no exceptions. If you choose not to wear a mask, you will need to leave immediately.”
 - “Excuse me, but I’ve noticed your mask has started to slip, please make sure your nose and mouth are completely covered during all times while in the building.”
 - **Explain why the rule exists**
 - “Masks are mandatory, for everyone’s health and safety.”
 - **Offer options/solutions**
 - “I understand that you do not want/can’t wear a mask. I suggest using Curbside Pickup. This handout explains where to find the online accommodation form or you can call and let us know the type of assistance you need and someone will get back to you within a day or two.”
 - **Call the In Charge person if the patron refuses to comply, or becomes belligerent, harassing, etc.**
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- **What should I do if a patron exceeds his one-hour maximum visit?**
 - Approach patron in a friendly manner. Be kind and polite.
 - **Apologize and remind the patron of our rule**
 - “I’m sorry, but we need to limit visits to one hour per day as we have a maximum capacity of 100 people at a time. I know this is really frustrating and I’m sorry for any inconvenience.”

- **Explain why the rule exists**
 - “We are limiting building capacity and length of visits for everyone’s health and safety, while also trying to accommodate as many people per day as possible.”
 - **Offer options/solutions**
 - “I know our time limits are really frustrating and inconvenient. You are welcome to come back tomorrow or later in the week”
 - “Do you know about Curbside Pickup? We can pull materials for you and have them held for you in about one week.”
 - “If you need additional help, I would be more than happy to take your name, number, and the kind of help you need and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.”
 - **Call the In Charge person if the patron refuses to comply, or becomes belligerent, harassing, etc.**

- **What should I do if a patron finishes his computer time and becomes angry because he cannot reserve another session the same day?**
 - Take a deep breath. Remain calm. Be respectful.
 - **Apologize and remind the patron of our rule:**
“I apologize for the inconvenience, but we are limiting our computer sessions to one 45-minute reservation per person, per day.”
 - **Explain why the rule exists:**
 - “We are enforcing these limits because of the limited number of computers available to the public during this time and our reduced hours. We want to make sure that we can serve as many of our patrons as possible.”
 - **Offer options/solutions:**
 - “Again, I am so sorry for the inconvenience. You can register for another computer session up to 7 days in advance before you leave today.”
 - “If you need additional help, I would be more than happy to take your name, number, and the kind of computer help you need and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.”
 - **Call the In Charge person if the patron refuses to vacate his seat or becomes belligerent, harassing, etc.**

- **What should I do if I notice visitors who do not comply with social distance guidelines?**
 - Approach patron in a friendly manner. Be kind and polite.
 - **Apologize and remind the patron of our rule**
 - “I’m sorry, but we need you to maintain 6 feet of social distance between yourself and others.”
 - **Explain why the rule exists**
 - “We are encouraging social distance of at least 6 feet for everyone’s health and safety.”

- **Offer options/solutions**
 - “Although we have social distance guidelines in the building, you are free to step outside to continue your conversation. We would appreciate it. Thank you.”
 - **Call the In Charge person if the patron refuses to comply, or becomes belligerent, harassing, etc.**

- **What should I do if a patron insists she has an in-person one-on-one appointment with a staff member?**
 - Take a deep breath. Remain calm. Be respectful.
 - **Apologize and tell the patron that we are not offering one-on-one, in-person help at this time**
 - “I’m sorry but we are only offering limited computer access and access to materials at this time. We are not offering in-person, one-on-one help at this time.”
 - **Explain why the rule exists:**
 - “We only have limited services right now. We want to make sure we are taking every precaution necessary to ensure a healthy and safe environment so the library can stay open.”
 - **Offer options/solutions:**
 - “Again, I am so sorry for the inconvenience. You can register for another computer session up to 7 days in advance before you leave today.”
 - “If you need additional help, I would be more than happy to take your name, number, and the kind of computer help need and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.”
 - **Call the In Charge person if the patron refuses to vacate his seat or becomes belligerent, harassing, etc.**