



An Update from the Ossining Public Library May 28, 2020

This has been a spring of unknowns and uncertainties; closing the building and going completely virtual, and now preparing for expanding our library services and returning to the building have made for a complex 2020, to say the least.

As the state begins to lift its PAUSE restrictions, we have started to plan for returning to the building and expanding our services. You may have already completed our survey regarding reopening the building, and I thank you for your input; if you haven't done so yet, I hope you'd consider [taking a few moments to share your thoughts on the services and issues most important to you as we discuss reopening.](#)

The library staff has been actively working on looking at solutions for some of the safety and service issues that we'll need to implement. On behalf of the staff and the Board of Trustees, I'd like to give you an update on some of the issues we're addressing:

Safety and Sanitization

The safety of our patrons and staff is the library's priority. The library will continue to be cleaned thoroughly and regularly by our excellent Buildings and Grounds staff, and library staff will have a safety and sanitizing procedure to follow upon entering the building. Surfaces and workspaces will be thoroughly wiped and sanitized, and staff will be wearing masks and practicing CDC recommended hand hygiene.

Reconfiguring Library Spaces

We've been discussing how we can reconfigure and reimagine the building's layout to maintain social distancing within the library. As you might imagine, certain elements of this process may take longer to implement, but the library is committed to providing a safe environment for staff and patrons.

New Processes for Handling Library Materials

The library will be implementing policies and procedures to ensure that circulating materials are safe, including quarantining items returned to the library for a period of 72 hours.

Virtual Programming

We have every intention of continuing our virtual programs, even after it's deemed safe to offer in-person programming. Our staff has flourished at virtual programming and events, and has been expanding our digital offerings, reaching new audiences. We're excited to continue expanding our reach to patrons who aren't able to attend our traditional programs or visit the library during our regular hours.

Urgent Services

We know that the Coronavirus pandemic and resulting economic, health, mental health, and social uncertainties have been devastating for many. The library staff has been compiling resources and contacts for community members in need, who may have issues with food insecurity, unemployment, or legal assistance. If you need resources on any of these services, **please feel free to email us at any time.**

The library will continue to provide updates and news about expanding or reintroducing our services and I can't thank you enough for your grace and patience as we've adapted to this ever-changing situation. I truly miss seeing you all, and I am thrilled to be working towards bringing back the services you need most. I'm especially excited for the **[launch of curbside pickup on Monday, June 1](#)**, which will allow our patrons to have access to our entire collection in a safe, socially distant manner.

As ever, you can feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns about the library's services, **via email** or by phone; I can be reached at (914)941-2416, ext. 333.

Sincerely,

Karen LaRocca Fels