

Coloma Public Library COVID-19 FAQ

This Q&A is designed to keep our Coloma Public Library community up-to-date.

When will the library reopen?

We know this question is foremost on everyone's mind!

Though the stay-at-home order is currently lifted, the Coloma Public Library remains closed to the public. The Library is following recommendations from local government and health agencies including the [Library of Michigan](#) to provide a careful gradual reopening of services that complies with mandated safety regulations. This is in line with what most public libraries in our area are doing.

We do not yet have a firm reopen date established; however, our staff have returned back to work to help prepare for reopening; and we look forward to seeing our public soon.

Curbside Services will begin Tuesday June 16th and will be available from 12:00pm-6:00pm Monday through Friday and Saturdays from 10:00am-2:00pm.

Special Access Services will allow up to 20 people in the Library at a time for visits up to 30 minutes in duration. The time limit will be enforced when there are patrons waiting for access. The date for Special Access Services will be announced as soon as we know when it will be.

Regular Services will begin when we can provide full safe access to the library.

Can you give me more details about Curbside Services?

Requests for materials can be made by calling 269-468-3431, ordering materials through the [online catalog](#), or sending an email to 'readcoloma@gmail.com'. We will find the materials, check them out to your card. We will bag and label your order. For patrons wearing masks, we will gladly deliver the bags directly to your car. For patrons not wearing masks, we can set the items in the trunk or place the items on our benches for pickup to maintain social distancing. We will let patrons know when orders are ready.

The Library building will remain closed with no access to the public during this time.

Please be aware that we have never offered Curbside Services before so may need to tweak our processes as we learn how to best implement them. We want to give our patrons the best public service possible!

Am I going to get overdue fines?

No. We will waive any late fines accrued due to our closure. We are beginning to check in and re-shelve hundreds of items. Please let us know if there are fines or items showing checked out that should not be on your account and we will resolve them. We will not re-establish late fines until 2 weeks after we reopen.

How do I bring back my borrowed items?

Please continue to return items to our outside book drop. Even after we reopen, we request that

materials are returned only to the outside book drop to help with our process to quarantine materials before putting them back into circulation.

Can I sign up for a library card online?

Apply for a Digital Library Card for access to [OverDrive](#) for checking out eBooks, audiobooks from home. Go to <https://colomapubliclibrary.biblionix.com/?signup=1> and fill out info. A staff member will be in touch by the next business day to get your card activated.

I can't remember my PIN. Can you help?

Yes, please contact us and we can easily help you reset your PIN. Also, you can alternately sign in using the phone number you have on file instead of a pin number.

What's in the Digital Library?

There are too many good things to list! For starters, get news from [Newspaper Source Plus](#). Access to music and online books through [Overdrive](#). Take a virtual tour of the [Smithsonian](#). Find out more by visiting our website at www.colomapubliclibrary.net.

What about the Summer Reading Program?

Like almost everything else in 2020, our Summer Reading Program will be a bit different this year. We will have fun reading challenges and chances for prizes for all ages including children, teens, and adults. We'll also have craft kits to pick up curbside (limited supplies, so first come, first serve). There will be the option of an online program or a paper reading log. No programs with group gatherings will be offered this summer; we hope to be able to return to programs in the fall.

The Summer Reading Program will run from June 22nd through August 7th.

When the library does open, what health precautions should I expect?

Like many stores, we will install plastic dividers at each of our public service desks to reduce droplet transmissions. We will have floor markings in place for social distancing at checkout, and ask that all patrons observe the minimum 6-foot distancing rule.

We'll be wearing masks, and will require the public to do the same if medically able to tolerate them.

We are a small staff of five and cannot promise to clean the restrooms after every use. However, we will have them regularly sanitized. We also heartily encourage good hand hygiene. Patrons will find hand sanitizing stations throughout the library.

We'll be using disinfectant on surfaces like door handles and countertops frequently. Patrons wanting to access computer stations will be offered wipes to sanitize their keyboards and mice before use. Basically, we want you and our staff to be safe and healthy. Please refer to and observe all [CDC guidelines and recommendations](#).

Does Covid-19 live on books and plastic media cases?

The Library Administration has continually reviewed recommendations and information from the CDC and a federal agency called the Institute for Museum and Library Services. Some public-health experts say the virus can live for 24 hours on some surfaces. With an abundance of caution, we have decided

to quarantine returned materials for one week before they can be checked out again. We are not using strong cleaners on library materials because it causes damage. Quarantine should be sufficient to provide safe access.

We will ask patrons to set browsed materials on tables so our staff can refile them as appropriate.

What if I have more questions?

Please call us at 269-468-3431, email readcoloma@gmail.com, or message us through our Facebook site.