

Hart Area Public Library COVID-19 Reopening Plan

The Hart Area Public Library building has been closed to the public since March 16, 2020 due to COVID-19. It has been a difficult time for all of us. Thank you for your patience and support during this pandemic.

In the couple of months that we have been closed to the public, HAPL has been researching and learning the best practices for cleanliness, sanitation and safety, so we can open in the safest way possible. Your health and well-being and that of our employees are our highest priorities. We plan to resume services in phases. Our plan follows the guidelines of the Health Department #10, the State of Michigan, OSHA, and the CDC. We will continue to listen to science and healthcare providers as we phase in opening the library and any plans are subject to change if new executive orders are issued.

On June 1, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order-110, which moved the state into phase 4 of Michigan's reopening plan. While Executive Order-110 continues to have restrictions, it does allow for libraries to begin providing services to their patrons.

Thank you for your patience as we phase in opening the library.

STAGE 1: Began June 8, 2020

Public is informed about reopening measures being taken via web, door signs and social media. The library building is closed to the public but open for curbside service. Staff is required to fill out a health evaluation daily before starting work. Staff practices social distancing and wears masks while working. Staff washes their hands frequently and uses hand sanitizer when necessary. Commonly used surfaces are cleaned twice a day. Office supplies are not shared among employees. Common materials of all types are discouraged. HAPL accepts returned materials and quarantines them for 24 hours before checking them in and making them available to the public. HAPL provides curbside service for persons to pick-up holds in addition to regular phone reference, faxes and copy services. Story Hour is online. Other programming is suspended. Staff continue to stock free book tables Library continues to suspend InterLibrary Loan Services until MeLCat resumes.

STAGE 2: Begins June 22, 2020

Public is informed about limited access and measures being taken via web, door signs and social media. Plexiglass is put in place at circulation desk and between public computers. Signs are in place to remind patrons to remain six feet apart and wear a mask. Patrons may visit the library with an appointment, which is made only by phone. Only household units (people who live in the same dwelling and are socially isolating together) are allowed in the library together to browse for materials. Additional individuals may make appointments to use the patron computers for up to 30 minutes. All appointments in this phase are made by phone. Social distancing of six feet will be marked on the floor and enforced. Masks are required for the public. If an individual does not have a mask the library will make a paper one available. Programs, meetings, or prolonged use of the library for any reason is not allowed. Seating areas will not be available to the public. Management begins preparations for Stage Three and keeps all staff informed. Library staff will continue to provide curbside service upon request.

STAGE 3: Begins July 6, 2020

Public is informed about limited access and measures being taken via web, door signs and social media. Limited number of individuals are allowed in the building (25% of capacity.) Social distancing and masks are required by public and staff. Access to public computers continues to be limited to 30 minutes. No public seating is available. Interlibrary Loan resumes when available. No meetings, programs, or prolonged use of the library for any reason is not allowed. Library staff will continue to provide curbside service upon request by those who prefer not to enter the library.

STAGE 4: When vaccines and treatments for COVID 19 are available or herd immunity has been achieved.

The Hart Library is back to business as usual. Normal hours resume, and regular access is available. In-person programming resumes. Common seating areas, toys and games are once more available. Meeting room is available for reservations and study areas are open and available.