

Ongoing Library Operations during COVID-19 Pandemic May 2021

Length of Stay

Patron visits to the library continue at 60 minutes.

Furniture / Reading Room

We currently are making daily newspapers available. The current day's paper is available for the day. Papers are replaced when the next day's issue arrives. We have tables available for reading the papers. Signs are on the tables reminding patrons of the 60-minute limit on visits and asking patrons to wear masks while reading the paper to avoid sneezing on the paper to protect the next reader.

Summer Hours

We will move to summer hours after Memorial Day weekend. In April we had an average of two people enter the library during the 6:00 – 7:00 hour. So far in May, we have seen an average of three people enter the library during the 6:00-7:00. With such low numbers, I recommend that for Mondays during the summer we remain open until 7:00 p.m.

Programming

For children's summer programming, most sessions will be in-person programming outdoors, primarily at the Corn Palace Plaza. At least one children's program will be a one-on-one event in the library. We are partnering with the Corn Palace offer a number of our summer children's programming events on Wednesday evenings in conjunction with the Farmer's Market. This will allow for social distancing and making use of outdoor conditions to keep people safe.

Our YA summer programming will be outdoors at the library. There will be one-on-one options outside as well. Adult programming in June will be one-on-one using the virtual reality units borrowed from the State Library. Between each use the equipment will be sanitized.

Masks

We continue to encourage patrons to wear masks, but realize that as more people get vaccinated that we can relax this expectation.

Community Room

We continue to quarantine materials after they are returned by patrons. The community room is being used for this purpose. Guidelines for libraries still recommend quarantine efforts, though we're beginning to see discussions for the possibility of discontinuing quarantining. The library staff still believe that we should quarantine our materials to keep patrons safe. Since we aren't conducting programming in the community room yet, we can continue this practice.