

Stoughton Public Library
304 S. Fourth St.
Stoughton, WI 53589



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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After months of planning and deliberation, we are excited to announce that the Stoughton Public Library will partially reopen to the public with limited access and services on **Monday, July 6, at 12:00 PM.**

The Library's hours during this first phase will be as follows:

Monday – Thursday: 12:00 PM to 7:00 PM
Friday & Saturday: 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM

We will continue to offer curbside pick-up of library materials by appointment for patrons who are not comfortable entering the building. Curbside pick-ups will be scheduled Monday – Friday mornings.

Library services and facilities will look very different during this first phase. Changes include:

- A maximum of 10 people (not including staff) allowed in the building at any time.
- Only limited areas of the first floor will be open to the public. With the exception of a selection of Lucky Day materials, the library's collection will not be available to the public. Staff will retrieve items by request.
- Signs encouraging patrons to sanitize their hands and wear face coverings will be placed at the entrance to the building.
- The open holds area will be closed to the public. Circulation staff will retrieve holds for patrons.
- Transparent barriers will be installed at all service desks.
- A limited number of public computers will be available on the first floor for Internet access, word processing, and printing. Reservations will be required.

- The delivery system operated by the South Central System is slowly returning to normal operations, but significant delays in obtaining items from other libraries will continue in the near future.

This first phase of partial reopening will last at least 3 weeks (through July 27). At that time, Library Director Jim Ramsey will consult with City Leadership, library management, and state and local health authorities to determine whether it is appropriate to move into a second phase, which may include expanded hours, services, and access to the library building.

We will be working with state and local health authorities throughout the process to closely monitor the course of the pandemic in our area. Our plan is to gradually increase services and building access in response to progress as measured by Madison-Dane County Public Health's Forward Dane plan, though the phases of the Library's reopening may not correspond exactly to the phases of Forward Dane.

Statement from Library Director Jim Ramsey:

"We greatly appreciate the patience and gratitude shown by the community these last few months as we've navigated these uncharted waters. As we move forward, the safety of our patrons and staff will continue to be the highest priority. Ultimately, the more careful we are now, the more planning and deliberation we conduct in these early stages, the quicker we'll return to our new normal. When we partially reopen, our building and our services will look very different for a while, but our core values remain unchanged: education, literacy, free access to information, and the creation of community."