



Imagine
more.
lplks.org

May 1, 2020

Dear Lawrence,

I started my job at Lawrence Public Library eight years ago today and I'm so proud of what our community has accomplished together. We are honored and humbled by the way you have embraced your public library and the group of humans who work here.

And now, as I write this, the world has changed so dramatically, so quickly. In a desperately naive way, I want to pretend that we will snap back into place quickly and easily. However, we all know — at least for the near future — that things are going to be weird and worrisome for a while. We have to settle in, embrace our uncertainty, acknowledge our fear, and work together.

With the guidance of Lawrence Douglas County Health, the library's leadership team and our Board of Trustees are making plans to begin resuming service on Monday, May 18. Our goal is to provide the best experience we can without putting you and our staff at risk.

We plan to have a phased reopening. While our digital use has spiked, we know many of you need to simply hold a book in your hands. We love that! So, an important first step will be getting real physical books, movies, and music back in everyone's lives in the safest manner possible. This process will be gradual, initially limited in scope, and scaled up as soon as possible.

In the coming days, we will share details for what our phased reopening of Lawrence Public Library will look like. We pledge to exercise a generous amount of caution as we welcome you back to the library. Thank you for continuing to be patient with us as we roll out services that match our need for safety for all involved.

When I decided to try my hand at being a library director, I never imagined providing library service during a worldwide pandemic. Luckily, Lawrence has an amazingly creative and clever group of library staff who are dedicated to serving you. We will do our best for you while remaining committed to a safe reopening of our community.

See you at the library (most likely in a mask and from a distance)!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brad".

Brad Allen