

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 25, 2020
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Library to expand access and services that emphasize convenience, safe distancing, and efficiency

LAWRENCE, KS — Lawrence Public Library will begin Phase 3 of the Library's Reopening Plan on Monday, June 29, 2020. "LPL Express" patrons will be able to pick out items, use the self check-out stations, access public computers, ask quick account questions, and use the expanded services listed on the library's website at lplks.org/library-reopening-plan. Library hours will be Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Most of the library's Main Level will be open, but the Lower Level, stairs, and elevator will remain closed. Properly-worn masks will be required on everyone entering the building and a limit of 50 library visitors will be allowed inside at a time. The library will provide disposable masks and service options for anyone with health issues who doesn't feel safe venturing inside the building or chooses not to wear a mask.

"We've designed this phase to provide better access to our physical collections and much-needed public computers while maintaining responsible safety measures to protect our staff and the Lawrence community as the COVID-19 virus expands and contracts unpredictably," said Brad Allen, Lawrence Public Library Director. "We're asking patrons to remain 6-feet apart, spend no more than 15 minutes in the building for most transactions, and limit computer use to 1-hour each day per user. Keeping it short and sweet with a little flexibility on either side feels like a solid formula."

The library anticipates most patrons falling into three groups. The 15-minute "Grab-n-Go Visit" imagines users successfully finding a good book or two, picking up a hold, checking out, and returning items in that timeframe. A 15-minute "Accounts Help Visit" can accommodate simple account questions, help with self check-out machines, and new cardholders who have filled out a library card application online, but need to pick up their cards.

The library's third scenario is a 60-minute "Computer Lab Visit" for patrons needing access to a computer, fax machine, and copying and printing services. Computer stations will be socially distanced in the library's Auditorium and hands-on assistance will be minimal.

"We'll also have convenient book, DVD, and music CD displays so you can easily grab something and be safely on your way," said Heather Kearns, Lawrence Public Library Marketing Coordinator. "We hope the ability to pick out your own stuff — albeit quickly — will be a welcome return to the 'good old days'."

More information about Lawrence Public Library's Reopening Plan is at lplks.org/library-reopening-plan.

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