

# Mahomet Public Library Board of Trustees Statement on Library Services during the COVID-19 Pandemic

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The Mahomet Public Library has been proud to serve the people of Mahomet Township for over 50 years. We pride ourselves on offering services to the people of Mahomet in a creative, professional way that is responsive to the needs of the community.

In the interests of public safety and as part of a coordinated community response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we made the difficult decision to close our doors in late March and provide service via electronic resources, our contactless pickup lockers and in other ways that did not expose our staff or patrons to undue risk.

As we prepare to open our doors to our public again, our first priority will be to continue to protect the safety of our staff and patrons. We have instructed our library staff to create a plan for reopening that reflects these priorities and is based on the best practices recommended by the CDC and local health officials. This plan will be approved by the CUPHD, along with any changes that may be made in coming weeks and months as the health situation in our community evolves.

Some elements of this plan include:

- Shortened hours of operation, with specific hours designated for elderly and high-risk patrons
- A requirement that all persons, staff and patrons, in the public areas of the library wear a mask covering nose and mouth at all times while in the building
- Expectation that patrons use provided hand sanitizer or wash hands before handling library materials
- Limits on use of public computers and study tables
- Careful handling of library books and materials by staff to ensure that our library materials are not vectors of transmission for the COVID-19 virus
- Limits on time spent in the building
- Closure of the Edgar Room and Schmit Room
- All Children's toys and activities put in storage
- Continued delivery of story times and library programs in online formats only, with weekly take and make crafts available to pick up in the library

We have asked that our staff be vigilant about carrying out this plan and ask patrons to cooperate fully with our staff in the interest of everyone's safety. Staff will make every effort to find ways to accommodate patrons who may be unable to use the library while observing these precautions.

This has been a difficult time for everyone. We appreciate the patience the public has had with us as we have responded to this very unusual situation, and we hope that the reopening of the library doors, even in a limited way, helps all of our patrons feel a bit more normal and that we can continue to enrich each other's lives and our community.

June 3, 2020