May 21, 2020

At Governor Beshear’s recent press conference, we learned libraries would be allowed to reopen in early June.

This is very exciting news, and we want to be upfront with our community about what this means - and what it doesn’t mean. We do not have a specific date for re-opening yet, despite Governor Beshear’s target date.

The Governor said specific guidelines and building capacity limits would be forthcoming. We don’t know exactly what reopening will look like yet. We do know that it won’t be “business as usual.” There will be new rules, new procedures, and service limitations. Some of these may be temporary, and some may be long term.

Before our closure, it was common for 1000 people to enter our building each day. Hundreds of people each day touched the same books, computers, newspapers, study tables, and bathroom sinks. It was common for 30-100 or more people to sit in close quarters in our meeting rooms to experience a program together. Young children would play with the interactive displays and toys, look at books - and then minutes later another child would touch those same books and toys. In an environment that is designed for people to browse, linger, and share common resources - reopening in the midst of COVID-19 has serious implications.

We’re eager to welcome you back, and we want to do it safely. This will mean we need to go slowly at first. We have a lot to figure out in the coming weeks, and we will be able to make more decisions once those additional guidelines are released. You, our valued patrons, will be kept informed all along the way.

In the meantime, we are providing curbside pick-up service in addition to our digital materials. If you’re not familiar with curbside delivery, you can place your holds online or by calling 352-2665 between 10 am and 5:30 pm. We’ll call you when your holds are ready, generally the next day. Check our website for more details.

Thank you for your patience and your support as we navigate this new normal, together.

–Jean Ruark, Executive Director