

Is the Library Open Now?

The Library will be open to the public for walkthrough browsing, curbside or drive-thru pick-up and limited computer use, based on the new [Walkthrough Reopening schedule](#). You may visit the library to return checked out items, pick up held items, and find new items to borrow. We are operating at limited capacity to allow for social distancing, and we ask that you limit your time in the library to one hour or less so that others may have a chance to safely visit.

What is a Walkthrough Reopening?

The Public Library Association (PLA), a division of the American Library Association (ALA), describes a Walkthrough Reopening as a way to welcome patrons back into the physical library locations on a limited basis. This may include capacity limits, advanced reservations, and removed seating opportunities.

“Reopening Under COVID-19: A Space Planning Approach” (PLA, Public Libraries May/June 2020: David Vinjamuri, Joe Huberty):

The goal of a walkthrough library is to maintain social distancing, limit congregation, and provide equitable access to patrons with different COVID-19 infection risk profiles who should not intermingle while local transmission of the virus is still possible.

At DCDL, walkthrough browsing means you can still briefly browse our collection to find your favorite books, magazines, games and DVDs. However, no seating, toys, study rooms or other attractions that may have encouraged you to linger or form gatherings in the library prior to the pandemic will be available.

What will be Asked of Patrons in the Library?

You are welcome to browse our collection and borrow new books, audiobooks, and movies. At this time, activities that require remaining in the library for an extended period of time are not permitted. These activities include, but are not limited to, tutoring, watching full-length movies online, and extensive business transactions. All branches will follow these general guidelines:

Walkthrough Reopening Frequently Asked Questions

- Branches will have **limited capacities** for visitors within the library.
- Please limit your time in the library to no more than **one hour**.
- The wearing of **protective face masks is required** in the library for users ages 2 and older.
- Practice **social distancing** of 6' while using the library.
- People who are ill or who have symptoms should not enter the library.
- Recent returns will be quarantined and are not available for browsing.
- Access to the computer lab is limited to specific days and hours, and will only be available by reservation. **(See Detailed Computer Policies Document)**
- Many of our regular services, facilities, and equipment are modified, reduced or unavailable. Notary services will not be available.

What Changes will I See When I Visit the Library?

In an effort to make the building as safe as possible for patrons and staff, we have made a number of physical changes to our buildings:

- All seating has been removed from the building. If you require a chair while awaiting service, please ask any staff member.
- Some areas are blocked or restricted.
- Markers on the floor indicate where to stand when waiting in line.
- Signs are posted to remind everyone to maintain a safe 6' distance from others.

Can I Still Request Curbside/Drive-Thru Pickup?

Yes. If you prefer not to come inside to pick up your reserved items, give us a call when you get here. We can check your items out to you and bring them out to your vehicle.

Can I Use a Meeting Room or a Study Room?

Our meeting rooms and small study rooms are unavailable at this time.

Is the Local History Room Open?

At this time, the Local History Room at the Delaware Main Library remains closed to the public. We will open it as soon as we are able to devise safe procedures for doing so. Please ask at the Information Desk about retrieving information that may be found in this collection.

What if I Need Help Finding Something?

Please ask at the Information Desk. We will be happy to help.

What Do I Do with Items I Remove from the Shelf, but Do Not Wish to Check Out?

We ask that you do not reshelve books or other items. Please place unwanted items on a designated cart in the nearby vicinity.

What Reference Services Are Available?

Call your local Delaware Library, or stop in to have basic questions answered, including:

- holds and requests
- digital collection support
- reader's advisory
- database search support
- internet searches
- printing documents for electronic delivery or curbside pickup

Printed materials may be requested in advance via [email](#). Only credit card payment will be accepted. **No cash will be handled.** Library staff will correspond with patrons regarding any fees owed. Please indicate what library pickup location is preferred. Document pick-up procedures will follow the same as the curbside steps.

[Email and website chat reference](#) will continue. [Summer Reading Club](#) will continue.