

Winthrop Public Library
COVID-19 Phased Reopening Plan
Introduction
May 2020

So much of our service model is based on shared spaces, materials and resources that when we open the library it will be assumed by the public that we have made it entirely safe to do so. However, if we are fully opened before we're prepared it will be difficult to ensure the safety of both staff and the public, and to cope with patrons who decline to observe the new rules of social distancing and wearing masks. Therefore, it seems best to reopen in planned phases.

We are considering opening in proposed phases that depend on information from state and local government, and assessment of the current phase. We are committed to returning to pre-pandemic normalcy in the future, but the health and safety of the staff and the community takes precedence, and guides us at all times.

The Phased Reopening Plan that is being developed is meant to be flexible and dependent on up-to-date information, rather than simple milestones of time passed. As we commit to extend our services beyond the virtual and online that have been ongoing, we must thoughtfully consider all physical spaces and the ways in which people interact. However, as we assess the environment and discuss our options, there are still elements that we do not know and cannot predict. This plan will hopefully respond to the reality that new health and safety regulations will be in place. It should also be noted that we may need to revert to a previous phase if new COVID-19 cases emerge or if mandates change.