

## ***Press Release***

### ***Mid-Michigan Libraries Establish Individual Re-Opening Plans***

Mid-Michigan Library League  
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Area public libraries have been closed for in-person service since March 16<sup>th</sup> due to COVID-19. Many services are still provided online, such as reference information and referrals; virtual story time and children's activities; downloadable e-books, audiobooks, and movies; and language learning instruction. Public libraries are developing re-opening plans, which must be locally developed and approved by each library's Board of Trustees. Library Boards are responsible for the legal operation and financial stability of the library. They set policy, and new policies are being created to allow public service to continue while protecting the health of both patrons and library workers.

Each library must develop a *COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan* consistent with recommendations developed by the Occupational Health and Safety Administration. The library's Board of Trustees must approve the plan that establishes necessary steps prior to re-opening and procedures to follow in order to establish the safe provision of service to the public while the pandemic is still without cure. Many of the libraries are considering a phased re-opening beginning with no-contact service such as curbside pickup.

The 36 public library members of the Mid-Michigan Library League (<https://mml.org> – membership tab) are individually established according to one of several types of public library establishment. Each has unique oversight from their Board of Trustees, which may be elected or appointed based on the establishment law, whether under a city, village, township, county, school district, or independent library district. The Board of Trustees makes decisions based on guidance provided by federal, state, and local sources, such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the local health departments, the Library of Michigan, and the Mid-Michigan Library League.

Check with your local public library for information about their particular re-opening plan.

The Mid-Michigan Library League is one of Michigan's eleven library cooperatives established by PA 89 of 1977 to provide support and services to its public library members. ###