



Because information is changing quickly, WVLS will send out an email each weekday around 9 a.m., featuring new developments for our member libraries related to COVID-19.

**1) What's New on the [COVID-19 Webpage](#) since 9 a.m. on 3/17**

- [FAQs About WVLS Notices, Holds, Due Dates & Patron Expirations](#)
- WVLS Member Library Closure Responses (Under the "Wisconsin Libraries" Toggle)
- Status of Member Libraries - Feel free to email Jamie ([jmatczak@wvls.org](mailto:jmatczak@wvls.org)) if you are closed but offering any kind of service (curb-side, appointment, virtual, etc), or if these services change, so the webpage can be updated.
- **Please follow the information under "Library Closure Procedures" posted on this page** if your library has made the decision to close or does close.

2) At 1:47 p.m. on March 17, 2020, the State of Wisconsin issued a [press release](#) regarding the [Emergency Order #5](#) issued by Governor Tony Evers, which prohibits mass gatherings of 10 people or more, beginning at 5:00 p.m. on March 17. The Division for Libraries and Technology offers the following guidance for public libraries in response to the Governor's moratorium on mass gatherings.

Libraries fall within the Emergency Order #5. If a library chooses to remain open it must **NOT** allow planned or spontaneous gatherings of 10 or more people, including staff, and **MUST** adhere to the social distancing rules of maintaining six feet between people and other public health recommendations announced by the Wisconsin DHS and US CDC. The only exemption for libraries to the number of persons rule is if the library serves as a polling place.

3) WiLS is working closely with OverDrive to add resources to the WI Digital Library. Yesterday, 400 Duke Classic ebooks were added. Each of these is a simultaneous access title and will be available for one year. As more options are made available, we will update you.

4) Regarding WISCAT, Please also **do not attempt to fill lending requests** due to the suspension of delivery service and library closures. Please either mark lending requests as Will Not Supply, or leave them in Pending, where they will move on to the next lender after your Days to Respond value has been reached.

We will be in touch again when we have more information. As always, please contact DPI with any questions.

- Gail Murray, WISCAT Technical Coordinator

5) From WPR: Libraries across Wisconsin are making adjustments to their services in an attempt to increase social distance and slow the spread of COVID-19, the illness caused by the new coronavirus. Libraries are specifically exempt from an order by Gov. Tony Evers and the state Department of Health Services that prohibits mass gatherings of more than 50 people beginning Tuesday. [Read more.](#)

6) The Wisconsin Library Association wants to commend the libraries and local officials who have made the very hard decision to close their doors to the public and at the same time, encourage others to take action. WLA is using our role as a leader and advocate of libraries to recommend all public libraries in Wisconsin to close their doors for the foreseeable future. [Read more.](#)

7) Many of the LAWDS workshops are postponed until further notice. Please see the current list below.

- **POSTPONED** March 18, 2020: 10-12:30 p.m., Altoona Public Library
- **POSTPONED** March 24, 2020: 10-12:30 p.m., Rhinelander, Rhinelander District Library
- **POSTPONED** April 2, 2020: 10-12:30 p.m., River Falls Public Library
- **POSTPONED** April 7, 2020: 10-12:30 p.m., Phillips Public Library

- May 19, 2020: 10-12:30 p.m., Stevens Point, Portage County Public Library: [register here.](#)
- May 20, 2020: 9:30-12 p.m., Hayward Public Library: [register here.](#)