

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 WVLS COVID-19 Webpage

- Status of Member Libraries (If your library wants to add additional information about being closed or who to contact, please notify the Help Desk at help@librarieswin.org).
- Training Resources (new toggle/section on the right)

2) Staying Together: COVID-19 Discussions

The Staying Together Discussion Recording from yesterday [is posted here](#). The powerpoint with the links to the Open Meetings Resources is attached (also on the COVID-19 webpage).

The next discussion will be Friday, April 3, at 10 a.m. Watch for the link here, or on the COVID-19 webpage (under Staying Together Discussions)

3) Updates to Public Library Development COVID-19 Page

The DPI agency-wide web page covers basic information about the novel coronavirus, critical government updates, and information on instructional areas and resources for schools.

This webpage is designated for COVID-19 information relevant to Wisconsin public library systems and public libraries. [Read more](#).

4) Investment in E-content for Wisconsin Library Users

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Division for Libraries and Technology is supporting libraries

and library users by adapting to new service expectations now that public libraries are closed to the public. The Division awarded a discretionary grant in the amount of \$250,000 to the Winding Rivers Library System to provide support to Wisconsin's Digital Library through the Wisconsin Public Library Consortium (WPLC). [Read more.](#)

5) Materials Quarantine: No More than 24 Hours Needed, per CDC Epidemiologist

In a webinar hosted by IMLS entitled "Mitigating COVID-19 When Managing Paper-Based, Circulating, and Other Types of Collections," Dr. David Berendes, PhD, MSPH, epidemiologist in the Waterborne Disease Prevention Branch of the CDC focusing on global sanitation and hygiene issues, stated that 24 hours is an acceptable duration for materials quarantine. Dr. Berendes added that the CDC is not concerned about books and other paper-based items (including mail and shipped packages) as a mode of transmission of the virus. [Read more.](#)

6) Important Message from WLA Board of Directors and Staff

Dear Wisconsin Library Administrators and Board Trustees,

The Wisconsin Library Association (WLA) applauds the hard work library staff, administrations, and Boards have put in the past few weeks during these tumultuous times. As a result of Governor Evers' "Emergency Order #12: Safer at Home," libraries across the State of Wisconsin are closed for in-person services. Many libraries have transitioned to staff being sent home, with some working remotely and some not working at all.

As a leader and advocate of libraries in Wisconsin, WLA recommends all public, special, and academic libraries in Wisconsin approve continued payment of regular wages and salaries for staff during this time of closure due to COVID-19.

Please consider that:

1. Continued payment of wages and salaries is a way to assure that experienced staff will still be in place to return to work once your library reopens.
 - A loss of income may result in some staff finding alternative employment.
 - Libraries will then have to recruit, hire, and train new staff when the library reopens which will cause loss of service to your patrons.
2. Continued payment of wages and salaries is budget neutral because the money to pay staff is already set for this year.

3. Continued payment of wages and salaries is a way to support staff so they do not have to worry about paying bills or going into debt.
4. Continued payment of wages and salaries is a way to support your local economy because library staff will be able to spend their full wages rather than having to cut back; wages will go back into the local community.

Various libraries are handling “work from home” and “reduced workloads” differently as to what they are requiring staff to do at home. Not all staff have home computers or internet connections in order to work remotely online. Wisconsin’s Department of Public Instruction’s Library Division will be releasing examples next week, so we defer to that coming list for suggestions. As Library Administrators or Board of Trustees you know the value our libraries add to our communities and the vital loss of connection and relationship so many are experiencing with our libraries closed.

Please consider supporting your library staff through these difficult times so they will be ready to return to supporting patrons and the community as quickly as possible.

Sincerely, WLA Board of Directors and Staff

7) Virtual Storytimes with the WHS Press

Are you struggling to find new activities for your kids to enjoy at home? Gather round children of all ages! Each Wednesday at 10 a.m., the Wisconsin Historical Society Press will have authors read aloud on Facebook from their children's books. [See the schedule.](#)

April 1: Pamela Cameron, "Sport: Ship Dog of the Great Lakes"

April 8: Susan Apps-Bodilly, "One Room Schools"

April 15: Jerry Apps, "Tents, Tigers, and the Ringling Brothers"

April 22, Earth Day: Sheila Cohen Terman, "Gaylord Nelson: Champion of the Earth."

8) Preventing the Spread of Coronavirus Disease in Homes and Residential Communities

Household members, intimate partners, and caregivers in a non-healthcare setting may have close contact with a person with symptomatic, laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 or a person under investigation. Close contacts should monitor their health; they should call their healthcare provider right away if they develop symptoms suggestive of COVID-19. [Read more.](#)