



COVID-19 DAILY UPDATE

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) Order #28

At 12:51 p.m. on April 16, 2020, the State of Wisconsin issued a [press release](#) regarding the extension of Wisconsin's Safer at Home Order until 8:00 a.m. Tuesday, May 26, 2020 (or until a superseding order is issued) per [Emergency Order #28](#). Order #28 implements some new safety measures and allows certain activities to begin ramping up service and operations. The following sections of Order #28 ([Read more here](#)) pertain to public libraries.

We understand that there are questions about courier, holds, book drops, quarantining of materials, when/if/how to start curbside services, etc. And we appreciate how excited you may be to begin providing more services to your patrons.

Because there are MANY factors that WVLS needs to think about and carefully consider, it would benefit all of us to walk slowly instead of sprinting to the finish line. Our recommendation is that if patrons ask about curbside service and when that will happen, that you encourage them to check your library website for updates. If they do not have internet access, take their name and phone number. WVLS will share recommendations with you, as DPI shares information with us. We ask for your patience and understanding as we navigate this quick change in an unprecedented time. Watch for more information early next week.

2) Staying Together: COVID-19 Discussion Thursday

The next Staying Together Discussion is scheduled for Tuesday, April 21 at 1 p.m. The topic will be updates on providing curbside services.

The recording from [yesterday's discussion can be found here](#), and the chat transcript [found here](#) (under the Staying Together Discussions section).

3) Impact Survey For Library Directors

WVLS Library Directors: if you have not already [completed the survey](#), please do so. The Division for Libraries and Technology (DLT) and the library system directors are working together to determine the effect of COVID-19 on staffing in Wisconsin libraries. We ask that the library director (or interim) complete this survey no later than 3:00 p.m. on Friday, April 24, 2020. We would like to receive information from all libraries.

4) Census 2020 Updates

- (from WI Libraries for Everyone) Most of our daily and weekly activities, both professional and personal, are wholly disrupted in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Occasional activities—like holidays and elections—face the same disruption. Then there's the constitutionally mandated U.S. Census. It happens every 10 years. And COVID-19 has knocked it off its track. As you can guess, public activities undertaken by the U.S. Census Bureau have been suspended, including field data collection. [Read more.](#)
- (from Library Journal) Libraries have a vital role to play in the census—especially this year, as the process moved primarily online, increasing the potential for undercounts of those on the wrong side of the digital divide. However, much has changed with the spread of COVID-19 and the closure of thousands of libraries. As of March 28, the Census Bureau had twice delayed field operations, most recently until April 15, and further delays may be likely. [Read more.](#)

5) Special Common School Fund Distribution

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction received a special fund allocation today from the Common School Fund to assist Wisconsin students in accessing digital resources amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The money is additional library aid totaling \$5.25 million to help meet the immediate distance learning needs of Wisconsin students and teachers. The funds will be disbursed to Wisconsin's public schools by May 1, 2020. [Read more.](#)

6) Digital Lite: Spotting Fake News

In a time when information is overwhelming, it is important for librarians and other information professionals to be vigilant about the information they share and be prepared to guide others to the best information out there. Right now, many websites and other media outlets are capitalizing by writing misleading headlines, exaggerating or falsifying information, or flat out inventing “news.” Also, many satire and joke news outlets consistently get confused for real news when shared on social media. [Read more.](#)

7) Register for LJ Day of Dialog: Now Free and Virtual

This year's most anticipated day-long gathering of librarians—now fully virtual and free to attend! Come hear from **more than 35 authors** in genre fiction, literary fiction, and nonfiction and learn about more titles and trends from editors on our popular editors' picks panel. Visit the virtual exhibit hall to network with leading publishers, enjoy additional author chats, and download digital galleys as well as other free resources and giveaways. [Read more.](#)