



WVLS will send an email on Tuesday and Friday at 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 and Resource Sharing Levels of WVLS Member Libraries
- Staying Together (6/23) Recording, Chat and Discussion (under Staying Together)

**2) WLA Conference Canceled (from Plumer Lovelace)**

After much consideration, the WLA Board at its June 12<sup>th</sup> meeting made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 annual conference. The inability of the hotel to provide an estimated date for reopening eliminated our ability to discuss postponing the event to a later date. Additionally, some exhibitors informed us that their respective companies had imposed travel bans until 2021. When all of the factors were taken into consideration, the board and I agreed that risk of a failed attempt was far too great. I would like to thank every member of the fall conference committee for their commitment and hard work leading up to this decision. Your effort has not gone unnoticed. A work group is being created to explore alternative ways to provide professional development opportunities to our members yet this year.

**3) New Insurance Portal and Unemployment Program**

A couple of new resources are now available through government agencies, both of which will have patrons asking for assistance.

- There's a new insurance portal for Wisconsinites, built by the Wisconsin Office of the Commissioner of Insurance. Through it, people can connect with a real person who will walk them through the insurance options in their community. [More information.](#)

- Unemployment Insurance will begin taking initial claims for Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC). PEUC is a program created by the CARES Act and pays up to 13 additional weeks of benefits to those qualified who have exhausted regular UI. An announcement will be displayed in the claimant portal to claimants currently filing weekly claims who may be eligible for PUEC, explaining how to file a PEUC initial claim. Those who are no longer filing or are unable to file online will be mailed a letter with the information on filing. Letters were first sent on June 22. For more information including who qualifies and how to file a PEUC initial claim, [please direct individuals here](#).

#### **4) Ancestry Access Extended**

Access to Ancestry Library Edition has been temporarily expanded to library cardholders working remotely, courtesy of ProQuest and its partner Ancestry. Remote access will be available until the end of July and will be re-evaluated monthly as needed.

#### **5) Webinar about Civic Engagement During COVID19**

The pandemic is shifting everything including how we vote. In this webinar you will learn about different things your library can do to serve patrons and institutional ways that libraries can support civic engagement this year. During the session, we will talk about voter registration, requesting absentee ballots, drive through voting, secure ballot drop boxes and more. There will also be resources to help individuals navigate the rules in their own state.

Presenter: Anjali Bhasin is the Civic Engagement Director at Wisconsin Conservation Voices and has also been a public services librarian on the UW-Madison campus.

Civic Engagement During the Time of COVID19

July 14, 12-1 p.m. CST; \$25

[Register](#)

#### **6) COVID Scam Alert: Face Mask Exempt Card (from Forbes)**

Cards and flyers proclaiming the holder is exempt from wearing face masks are fraudulent and not officially endorsed by the U.S. government, the Department of Justice said in a statement Wednesday, after reports of people using the fake cards to flout mandated face coverings emerged on social media. [Read more](#).