

8/20/2020

Dear Elmhurst Residents,

The Library has operated on a reservation basis since reopening the building on June 15. Appointments can be made through the Library's web site or by phone. Our new grab-and-go service model gives patrons access to the Library's collection while limiting time spent in the facility for the health and safety of all. Computers are also accessible during visits and do not require a separate reservation.

Since our reopening, an average of 450 patrons visit the Library per day. We have resumed our normal hours of operation and are open 72 hours per week. Our goal is to provide adequate space for social distancing so that the Library is never crowded. In addition, all programming continues online. Patrons have a new option of reserving virtual meeting rooms since meeting rooms are unavailable.

This new service model provides for reasonable usage and access during this uncertain time. It has kept us running, with no serious issues, for two months. This is a benchmark that I am pleased to report and can only hope continues. Balancing human interactions with building usage is no small task in the middle of a pandemic. We are very grateful that our patrons visit and use their Library while adhering to safety measures like wearing masks and socially distancing.

We continue to assess the public health situation daily and keep up-to-date with government guidelines as we make plans to offer more services. We plan to reopen the Makery and Creative Studios on a limited reservation system in the near future, so stay tuned!

While all of this is promising, there are still limitations to what we feel is safe and responsible to offer our community. For now, we do not allow groups to assemble in the Library. This is especially important to note as school resumes. Our model does not allow for people to stay in the Library for extended periods of time. However, we still offer support with reference services that answer questions and help with finding resources for school assignments. Additionally, the

JULY 2020 BY THE NUMBERS



450
daily Library visitors



106,500
items checked out



1,936
attended programs



20,000
digital items
checked out

Library continues to provide enrichment opportunities through our online events. Information about all that we offer students and their families can be found on our website and will continue to evolve as we assess the Library needs of remote and hybrid learners and families in our community.

The Library is grateful for our continued partnership with Elmhurst schools and is happy to support families as they head back to school. We extend a big thanks to our community as we all continue to adjust to ever-changing circumstances. We look forward to seeing you on your next visit to the Library.

Sincerely,

Mary Beth Harper
Library Director