

Albany Library's Six stages to reopening

All Albany Public Library (APL) locations will remain closed until further notice due to the continuing COVID-19 outbreak. APL will continue to provide virtual services, materials, and programming through its website and social media channels during the closure.

The library's Board of Trustees agreed to the continued closure at a meeting on March 24. The board will reassess at the April 14 meeting, which will be conducted virtually and livestreamed on YouTube (@AlbanyNYLibrary).

The board also reviewed a COVID-19 Continuation of Service Plan developed by Executive Director Scott C. Jarzombek and the library's leadership team. The plan employs a phased approach to reopening the library, taking into consideration guidelines provided by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, World Health Organization, New York State, and Albany County.

At this point, there is no date set for the reopening plan to begin. There are six phases to the plan, and each of them are expected to last up to about four weeks. The phases are: (1) staff return to buildings for cleaning and preparation; (2) select locations open with fewer hours, limited services, and no programs or meetings; (3) all locations open with limited hours and services, and no programs or meetings; (4) all locations open with regular hours with limits on some services and no programs or meetings; (5) limited programming and meetings are allowed with limits on how many are held in each building and on attendance; and (6) full operation with heightened cleaning and distancing protocols remaining in place.

"The intent of this plan is to lay out a patient and careful approach to resuming library operations, so that we can provide needed services to the public while modeling the level of responsibility everyone in the community should be following," Jarzombek said.