

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**June 24, 2020**

## **SPL releases path to reopening details**

The provincial government announced yesterday that Saskatchewan will be moving into Stage 4.2 of its Re-Open Saskatchewan on Monday, June 29. Though public libraries will be permitted to reopen in a limited fashion during this phase—while still following provincial guidelines around social distancing—Saskatoon Public Library (SPL) will not be ready to reopen on June 29.

We are following a Board-approved five-step plan to reopen libraries gradually. The next step will involve allowing limited public access to libraries, along with the resumption of some delivery services.

Employees are actively working on everything needed to move into this next step of the plan, and we are operating out of an abundance of caution to help ensure the health and safety of our employees and patrons. SPL does not yet know when we will be ready to move into the next stage of its reopening plan, but will share more details in the coming weeks.

“We look forward to welcoming patrons back into our facilities in a gradual manner, but we need to ensure all necessary safety protocols and equipment are in place before we do so,” explained Carol Cooley, SPL’s CEO. “We are fine tuning our reopening plans based on provincial guidelines and also waiting for some personal protective equipment (PPE) to arrive and be installed. Until then, we encourage Saskatoon residents to continue using our contactless holds pick-up service for physical library materials and the digital library resources on our website.”

SPL continues to provide public library service in the following ways:

- Library employees are available to answer questions and provide support over chat, email and phone, Monday to Saturday, 10 am to 6 pm.
- SPL will continue to offer holds pick-up services by appointment at all locations.
- Book returns are open.
- Late fines are suspended.
- Digital materials—including eBooks, eAudiobooks, music, movies and more—are available online.
- Summer reading and literacy activities online.
- We are offering online programming.

In addition to preparing for the next step in our reopening plan, SPL has been very busy working to meet the current demand for library services. In the first week of offering holds pick-up services (which began on June 15), over 21,000 holds were placed by Saskatoon residents. There are also over 100,000 items currently checked out, though we have begun the process of checking in recently returned items. Book drops have re-opened and all late fines remain suspended.

For more information, please visit [SPL's website](#).

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