

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

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## ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



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## **Erie County Public Library reopens for lobby service June 29**

Erie, PA – Erie County Public Library moves into its next progressive reopening phase of lobby service Monday, June 29. By having two weeks of truncated services, Erie County Public Library will help transition patrons to the library's new normal and prepare staff for resuming regular in-person interactions.

In prior phases, all library services have been distanced, and this precautionary phase will allow administration to assess the safety measures in place before adding additional services July 13.

Available services in the lobby service phase include hold pickup, browsing of limited material selections, cash fine/fee payments, and the issuing of library cards. The Bookmobile continues to operate its full schedule by delivering patron holds to its defined service points.

Computer access, printing, seating, fax services, full collection access and restrooms are still not available during the lobby service phase, but will be offered in Erie County Public Library's final reopening phase, which commences July 13. All Erie County Public Library locations currently offer expanded Wi-Fi that can be accessed from location parking lots 24/7. Materials can still be returned at outside book drops at all locations; materials are quarantined for 72 hours after return prior to being checked in. To place holds or for any questions, please call 814-451-6900.

To ensure the health and safety of both staff and patrons, all visitors will be asked to wear a mask, maintain social distancing, and limit their visit to 15 minutes or less. Buildings will also have occupancy limits to assist with social distancing in the restricted space. Additionally, glass partitions will be at all service points, staff will sanitize stations between transactions and will take frequent handwashing breaks, and hand sanitizer will be available for patron use.

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“As Erie County graduates to the green phase, we will be gradually reopening our libraries in a measured, safe and healthy manner,” said Sheryl Thomas, assistant director of Erie County Public Library. “The lobby service will provide patrons with access to holds, a limited selection of popular materials, and in-person interactions with staff members. This phase helps us ensure that health and safety precautions are working while adding back services and seeing sorely missed patrons as we prepare to more fully open July 13. The libraries will look and feel different, but we are as excited as ever to welcome patrons back.”

Lobby service will be available at all Erie County Public Library locations (Raymond M. Blasco MD Memorial Library, Lincoln Community Center Library, Iroquois Avenue Branch Library, Millcreek Mall Branch Library, and Edinboro Branch Library) and select independent libraries including Union City Public Library and Albion Area Public Library.

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