

## Scranton Library Reopening Update – August 31, 2020

We are delighted to share that the recent public tours of Scranton Library were a huge success and the feedback overwhelmingly positive. Over 300 members of the Madison community toured our renovated and expanded facility and guests shared with our volunteer tour docents that the design, physical spaces, and green technology of the building were beyond their expectations. In addition, many visitors were pleased to see that several features of the original 1900 building were restored and the 2020 addition is bright, open, and contemporary.

During the tours, volunteers received a number of questions about plans for reopening the library to the public. Answers to frequently asked questions are addressed below:

### ***When and how will Scranton Library reopen to visitors?***

The next phase of reopening for Scranton Library is expected to begin this fall. At that time, the library will reopen to the public on a by appointment basis with limited hours. Meeting, study, and program spaces within the library will remain closed to ensure full compliance with health and safety guidelines and spaces will be configured to support physical distancing and to limit face-to-face interactions. Access to the children's room will be limited to one family at a time.

Saturday appointments will be for public computers only, due to limited staffing.

To receive up to date information about the library's reopening, please sign up for online newsletters [here](#).

### ***What precautions are you taking to provide a safe environment for visitors?***

Scranton Library is following the State of Connecticut's sector rules for reopening public libraries and the guidelines of local public health and safety officials.

For your safety, a **Temporary Public Safety Practices Addendum** will be implemented and includes:

- Anyone entering the library must make an appointment and check-in upon arrival.
- Library users will be required to wear face coverings at all times, maintain six feet of social distance from others, and use hand sanitizer or gloves.
- Library spaces and furnishings will be reconfigured to ensure 6 ft. of social distance.
- All shared computers and chairs will be disinfected after each appointment time.

In addition:

- Plexiglas shields will be installed at the circulation and information desks.
- Two contactless, self-checkout machines are located within the library for your convenience.
- Books and other library materials returned by users are quarantined for 96 hours before being re-shelved.

### ***What services are available now? Can I borrow library books?***

Contact-free [take-out and delivery of library materials](#) is currently available and will continue to be available to users once the library is open. Materials are bagged and arranged on tables located outside the main entrance (off the parking lot) in alphabetical order by last name. Library card holders may request library materials either online at [scrantonlibrary.org](http://scrantonlibrary.org) or by calling the library at 203-245-7365.

If you are unsure of what to read next, please contact the library and one of the library's reference and information staff members will be happy to "browse" the shelves for you and make suggestions.

### ***I've noticed that neighboring libraries are open, why isn't Scranton Library?***

As of this update, approximately 65% of public libraries in CT are open to the public. For several reasons, Scranton Library has not reopened to visitors:

- 1) **Construction Delays:** COVID-19 did impact the construction timeline of the renovation and expansion building project. As a result, vendors and subcontractors are working inside the building daily to complete the final project requirements. To ensure the safety of library patrons and reduce the spread of COVID-19, the library will not open to the public while vendors and subcontractors are located throughout the building.
2. **Staffing:** Staff returned to the library building at 801 Boston Post Road in early July after the building met the requirements for occupancy. Reduced staffing due to COVID related restrictions means that only half of the staff is working in the library at any given time.
3. **COVID Requirements:** Sector guidelines for public libraries require routine cleaning of frequently-touched equipment and shared surfaces throughout the building. Although the library is cleaned daily by a custodial service, Scranton Library does not employ full-time custodial staff who would be able to clean our facility throughout the day. In addition, Scranton Library must ensure that a consistent supply of required and specific COVID cleaning supplies will be available to visitors at shared equipment, e.g., computers, copiers, self-checkout machines, and commonly used surfaces such as tables and chairs.

Scranton Library is focused on opening in the safest possible manner with the best interests of library staff and visitors in mind. Thank you for your patience as we navigate a construction project and a global pandemic.

In the meantime, don't forget to take advantage of the library's many [virtual programs](#) and [24/7 online access to ebooks, audiobooks, movies and music](#).