

Beaver Dam Community Library
Addendum to Reopening:
Return to Full-Service
April 16, 2021 | Update May 18, 2021

Addendum Introduction

The Beaver Dam Community Library has developed an addendum of best practices to the [Library Reopening Plan](#). The principles of personal safety, risk mitigation, transparency, and industry standards when applicable continue to guide the ongoing development and application of this document.

As we advance through the “vaccination phase” of the pandemic your public library in coordination with the City of Beaver Dam, continue to navigate difficult decisions about when it is safe to relax restrictions. This addendum offers a list of best practices in key areas of concern: public health factors including vaccination and positivity rates, quarantine of materials, and other factors to consider when deciding to increase access to services.

Communication & Coordination of Effort

Continue to work with the City of Beaver Dam when making decisions based on local factors. Maintaining a coordinated city effort will have lasting benefits for the community.

Continue to seek guidance from local and county public health departments by ensuring the Library complies with all applicable health orders and considers all public health recommendations.

Continue to communicate with other libraries in our county and regional library system staff. While decisions are local, some level of continuity of service helps smooth the path for both library workers and area residents.

Continue to encourage and practice the best way of mitigating the risk of spreading COVID-19: through mask wearing; through hand washing, and through physical distancing. Both DHS, DPI, and the CDC recommend mask wearing regardless of mask mandate status. Sick people will continue to be advised to stay home. Avoiding crowded and poorly ventilated areas continues to be advised.

Public Health Factors

Considering the Metrics available at both a local, county, state and federal level is a key decision-making factor.

- Number of COVID-19 cases in the past 7-14 days
- Case trends (up or down)
- Positivity rate, in percent
- Hospital capacity
- Availability of testing
- Contact tracing
- Vaccination rate

The CDC updated their [Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools Through Phased Prevention](#) guidance on March 19, 2021.

The CDC also offers [When you are Fully Vaccinated Guidance](#) on their website.

Vaccination is a critical tool for containing the virus and minimizing the adverse impact of COVID-19. The State of Wisconsin seeks to achieve herd immunity for COVID-19 across Wisconsin by immunizing approximately 80% of the eligible population.

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/contracts/covid-19-vaccination-community-outreach.htm>

Comparing our community data with the metrics is another important factor.

Community data can be found on the DHS website.

- Disease activity rates can be found at <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/disease.htm>
- Hospital capacity can be found at <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/capacity.htm>
- Vaccination data can be found at <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-data.htm>

When accessing this data, the library will consider the public health trends in our entire service area.

Quarantine of Materials

Initially, to limit the potential transmission of COVID-19 by surface contact, quarantine of materials was a safe, effective, low cost, low effort way of mitigating the risk of spread of live virus to library workers and users. Good hygiene practices are believed to limit risks from surface contact.

On April 5, 2021, the CDC issued [updated guidance](#) indicating that, while transmission of COVID-19 is technically possible by surface contact, the risk of such transmission is less than 1 in 10,000. The science brief confirms that principal mode by which people are infected is through exposure to respiratory droplets carrying infectious virus. In addition, the CDC states that cleaning surfaces using soap or detergent, and not disinfecting, is enough to reduce risk in most situations. For more information on this topic, refer to the section of [the brief](#) entitled, “Effectiveness of cleaning and disinfection.” (Added 4/7/2021)

Your library continues to work with its regional library system and other member libraries to determine an appropriate level of materials quarantine. Both CDC and other relevant empirical studies offered are considered.

Communication Plan

A variety of resources have been utilized as part of the library’s overall communication plan. They include determining signage or communications. The [Library’s website](#) continues to be the primary avenue for keeping the public updated on reopening changes, adjustments to open hours, new services, and other relevant information.

Reopening Stages

The Library Board voted to reopen the Library Building February 1, 2021 with additional safety precautions in place at **Stage 4**.

Stage 1

Limited staff in the building for facility maintenance and quarantine of materials. Librarians working from home providing operational support, reference services, virtual services, and programming. Librarians periodically stop in the library for supplies.

Stage 2

Limited staff in the building to prepare the facility for reopening, including reconfiguration and moving of furniture and displays to accommodate social distancing, installing signage and sneeze guards, glass enclosures at service desks, and acquiring Personal Protective Equipment.

Stage 3

Limited staff in the building for necessary library operations and/or remote services. Depending on the situation remote services that do not require direct public contact may continue. Library Administration prepares for moving to other stages as situations change.

Stage 4

The Library building is open to the public with safety measures in place. Essential services provided include browsing and check out of materials, limited public Internet, and Wi-Fi access. Alternative services, including contactless pickup, mailbox library service, and librarian selection service continue. Small groups may visit the library to browse and check out materials. No in-person programming or prolonged socializing.

Stage 5

With safety measures in place, library building remains open to the public with a gradual increase in services and programming. Every Community in Wisconsin is unique, and all library decisions are made by local library boards per Wisconsin Library Statute 43.58, Powers, and duties of the Library Board.

Stage 6

Library returns to full-service with building open to the public. In person programming, Internet access for all patrons with permissions, seating options for studying increase, socializing appropriate for a public library setting returns, along with other in-person and remote library opportunities. Applicable alternative services to continue.