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Turning a New Page

Families across the state are adapting to the evolving changes in daily life caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Most schools, places of public gathering, and nonessential businesses are starting to reopen, and parents and other caregivers are faced with helping their families adjust to the new normal. None of this is easy, but it helps to stay focused on what is possible in order to reinforce a sense of control and to reassure our community that they are okay, and that the situation will get better.

As public libraries make plans to phase in reopening their buildings, they must consider how best to balance the safety of staff and patrons with the mission of providing the community with access to the resources traditionally offered by the library. In drafting plans to phase in reopening and policies to govern use of the library during these unprecedented times, Columbus Public Library has done so.

The Columbus Public Library is now open Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. It should be noted that all who enter the facility will be required to sign a liability waiver on their initial visit. To add, parents or guardians will need to sign liability waivers for anyone under 18 years of age. Patrons may print and complete the liability waiver online to save time during their initial visit. This is in effort to maintain the health and safety of their visitors and staff, and some services and assistance will still be limited.

With this in mind, the library is still actively interacting with its patrons and offering the programs we all love, such as the Children's, Teen, and Adult Summer Reading "Imagine Your Story" Program modified to take place online. The Platte County Bookmobile is also open and serving the community.

In addition, and amid the pandemic, the library has released important information in regard to the new building project. Recently the building project video was released and can be found online (<https://buildingtogethercolumbus.org/>) and over the next couple of months, the community will get more updates and will be able to see the project unfold.

During these times, it is assured that the library we all love and appreciate is still offering the best quality service.