

## **Henderson County Public Library Reopens by Anita Smith**

The Henderson County Public Library is ready to open to the public now that we are in Phase 4 of the Illinois Restore Plan. The library will open its doors on Monday, June 29, 2020. There will be distinct differences as patrons will come into the library and step to the circulation counter and staff will go into the stacks to pull their items. We ask that you limit your time in the library as you pick up your items. There will be blue marks on the floor to maintain the 6 feet of social distancing.

The same procedures will apply for the Henderson County Public Library Bookmobile.

The library has put safety protocols in place and we ask that you follow them by wearing face masks (unless medically unable), utilizing disinfectant wipes and hand sanitizer stations, and social distancing. The staff will clean the touch points twice daily.

The internet public access computers have been spread apart and have plastic coverings on the keyboards and disinfectant wipes to be used to wipe the mouse and the desk before and after each use. The library offers free Wi-Fi service that is password protected that is available with the bookmobile or in the building.

At this time, the library is limiting visits to checking out items and limited services making copies, sending faxes and scanning items. The computers will be open and the public can print items. The toys and play areas are unavailable, the genealogy room and our meeting room are closed to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Curbside service will still continue for all that want to use this service during the Library hours Monday through Friday 9:00am – 5:00 pm; and Saturdays 9:00 am – noon and 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm.

Patrons have several options in order to choose items for checkout:

- Place holds on RSAcat our online library catalog by going to our website at [www.hendersoncolibrary.com](http://www.hendersoncolibrary.com),

- email the library at [hcpl61418@hotmail.com](mailto:hcpl61418@hotmail.com) with your requests
- call the library at 309.627.2450
- if after hours leave a message on the answering machine with your name, phone number and the items you are requesting.

When items are returned to the library, library staff then places those items into quarantine for 3 days. The library staff is using the meeting room as the quarantine room. Items will be discharged after the 3 day quarantine period; therefore you will continue to see your returned items on your account until the 3 day quarantine period expires. This is a safety protocol our library system has put in place to reduce the spread of the Coronavirus.

Library gathering spaces, on-site programs and meetings will remain closed for now. Our final phase of reopening will include restarting programs at a later date.

Our summer reading program is our largest most impactful program and we are really disappointed to not have an in-person program this summer. However, children can still participate in the program as it isn't too late to jump in and get signed up. All you need to do to register is download the App on your phone or go to <http://hendersoncolibrary.readsquared.com/> on your computer. Also, each week the library is releasing a Facebook "storytime" for children at the regularly scheduled Tuesday mornings at 10:00 am. As well each week we are sending home a take- it make- it craft to do at home and a STEM project.

Thank you for your patience during this difficult time. We look forward to the day when the restrictions are lifted and we can gather and socialize at the library. Please feel free to call the library with any questions at 309-627-2450.