



Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St. Albert Public Library resumes in-person services at Downtown Library July 2

ST. ALBERT, AB – St. Albert Public Library is pleased to announce its move into Phase 2 of the Library’s Relaunch Plan. On Thursday July 2, the Downtown Library will resume in-person library services, including in-person holds pickup, browsing access to books and other physical collections, drop-in public computer access and in-person staff assistance. Limited hours, limited entry, physical distancing, sanitization and other precautions will be in place to ensure the safety of library patrons and staff. Jensen Lakes Library will resume in-person library services later in July.

“We are proceeding with great caution and with public safety top of mind, but the community needs their library,” Bailey says. “We can’t wait to welcome people back and to re-establish some of the crucial library services that people count on.”

Starting Thursday July 2, the Downtown Library in St. Albert Place will open its doors from noon to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays. It will be closed on Sundays. Dates and hours for Jensen Lakes Library will be determined in the coming weeks.

As always, patrons are welcome to email or phone during the Downtown Library's opening hours regarding memberships, reference and readers’ advisory questions, and tech help. The Library will continue to offer 24/7 access to the eLibrary as well as an array of online programming, including the June 29 launch of our famous Summer Reading Games for kids, teens and adults.

The following public safety precautions will be in effect when the Downtown Library reopens:

- 40 patrons will be allowed in the Library at one time;
- A greeter will welcome patrons and provide hand sanitizer, screening, and guidance regarding time limits for their stay and other requirements for entering;
- Computer use will be limited to one hour per day per person;
- Hand sanitizer stations and signage will be posted throughout the Library;
- Patrons will use self-checkout machines to sign out materials;
- Library staff will provide support while maintaining the required physical distance;
- The wearing of masks by patrons is encouraged but not required;

- High touchpoints will be identified and will have hand sanitizer at them; patrons will browse high touchpoint areas at their discretion;
- Library staff will follow the physical distancing and safety requirements and guidelines outlined in the Government of Alberta Relaunch Strategy: <https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-relaunch-strategy.aspx>

The current Curbside Pickup service will be phased out so that library patrons can resume their use of the Library's online holds system – this important switch will once again allow patrons to place holds on items that are currently checked out or on order, as well as on items that show available. The online Curbside Pickup form will close at 5 p.m. today, June 22, and Library staff will use the week to fill those requests.

Patrons will be able to place holds through their Library account beginning June 29 for pickup at the Downtown Library. The book return at Jensen Lakes Library will reopen on June 30, and Jensen Lakes Library will be available as a pickup location once it is ready to reopen.

“Re-opening the Library's physical doors involves a tremendous number of moving parts, and we continue to plan every aspect of it with service and safety as our guiding principles,” Bailey says. “Processes and open hours will continue to evolve as we move forward through Phase 2 of our Plan. In the meantime, we are excited to welcome many of our staff back from temporary lay-offs, and to welcome the community back into the building. Those in-person connections and supports are an integral part of the Library's service to the community.”

More details about the Downtown Library reopening and an FAQ page (frequently asked questions) will be posted soon at www.sapl.ca.

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