

August 19, 2021

Dear Placer Community Members, Community Partners, and Library Lovers,

Hello from Library Administration. I am reaching out to you today with an update on the resumption of services in the Placer County Library. I was hoping to have better news, but the spread of the Covid-19 Delta Variant in our community has caused Library Administration to pause and reassess the timing for the resumption of some of our services, including in-person programming (e.g., Pre-school Storytime, Baby Lapsit, Toddler Time, craft tables, book clubs, etc.) and volunteer activities. A pause will enable Library Administration to ensure we do our part to keep community members and staff as safe as possible by not encouraging reasons to gather.

At this time, Library Administration is also extending the moratorium on the use of library community rooms at the Auburn, Foresthill, Granite Bay, and Rocklin libraries through November 30, 2021. Use of community rooms will be limited to library employees and other County staff for County-related business. This moratorium applies to the Library Advisory Board, Friends of the Library, Literacy Support Council, library-sponsored programs led by volunteers (e.g., Silver Screen, T'ai Chi, Gold County Writers), and all other external group use.

In his August 10, 2021 report to the Placer County Board of Supervisors, Placer County Interim Public Health Officer Dr. Rob Oldham stated that "Delta continues to surge, now accounting for over 90% of all Covid cases we are seeing in Placer. Our case rate is now over 20 cases per 100,000, our testing positivity rate is now over 10%, and Placer hospitals now have over 150 patients admitted due to Covid. These are the highest numbers we have seen since January, and more than double last summer's peak."

Hearing this information from Dr. Oldham, it seems prudent to delay creating any opportunity for people to gather in library spaces. As Placer County employees, we are required to adhere to the County's Covid Prevention Program (CPP); additionally, we have been directed to limit in-person meetings in favor of meeting virtually for the time being.

We are fortunate that we have successfully welcomed the community back into most of our libraries and now offer in-person browsing, holds pickup, and computer use in all open locations. We hope this helps to bring our libraries back to some semblance of normalcy for our users, but recognize it is not enough. We will continue to do our best to evaluate the proper timing to safely add in any services we can. In the meantime, please visit us when you are able and know that we are here to help.

All my best,

Mary L. George, Director of Library Services