



PRESS RELEASE



May 6, 2020

CONTACT: DIRECTOR OF THE OCONEE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
Blair T. Hinson
(864) 364-5705
bhinson@oconeesc.com

Oconee County Public Library Reopening Plan

The Oconee County Public Library will phase in the opening of the libraries in various ways over the next two months. The library has established a plan based on the National and State benchmarks for reopening or moving to levels of increased service.

Beginning May 4, the book returns at all branches were reopened. Materials may be returned to any branch, but will be subject to a three-day quarantine, so items that are returned may still appear on a patron's record for a few days. No fines will be assessed during this period.

Beginning May 14, the library will begin calling users who had items on hold when the libraries closed to the public on March 17. The calls will be to arrange a pickup time and place, which will begin on Monday, May 18. No other holds may be placed yet.

Beginning on Thursday, May 21, users may begin placing holds through the library catalog online, or by calling their local branch. Holds will be limited to fifteen (15) items on a card at any time. The library will call users to schedule pickups on those items starting on Tuesday, May 26. Curbside pickup will be arranged in such a way that items will be left at certain time on tables near the entrance(s) of the branch(es). Upon request, items can be placed in your trunk or back seat. The library will only be loaning books, DVDs, and audiobooks during this period. Launchpads, Literacy Kits, telescopes, and so on will not be available for holds.

Once the library starts curbside service, items being brought back will still need to be returned to the book returns. For safety reasons, staff will not be able to take items directly from users.

A date has not yet been determined for the library to open for in-person visits, but the library will reopen as soon as it is safe to do so. Library hours will be limited, and certain areas of the library will not be open. Once it has been deemed safe, more areas will be opened and more services will be reestablished.

Any questions related to Oconee County Public Library may be directed to (864) 638-4133.

For more information, please visit the official COVID-19 information center for your Oconee County, SC Government at oconeesc.com/covid19.

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) was first identified in Wuhan, China. Over the past few weeks, the disease has rapidly spread in multiple countries, including the United States. The virus mainly spreads from person-to-person through direct contact or respiratory droplets. Symptoms of the virus include fever, cough, and shortness of breath.