



San Francisco Public Library

100 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102 - 4733

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 12, 2021
To: San Francisco Library Commission
From: Michael Lambert, City Librarian
RE: Phased Reopening of Library Services

The San Francisco Public Library is bringing forth a staff report regarding anticipated future updates to the local public health order that may allow for the resumption of in-person library services.

Background

In review, the San Francisco Public Library closed all 28 library locations to the public at the close of business on Friday, March 13, 2020 in response to the City and County of San Francisco – Department of Public Health [Order of the Health Officer C19-05b](#) issued on March 13, 2020. Over the course of this past year, San Francisco Public Library personnel have supported the City's public health emergency response in myriad functions as Disaster Service Workers (DSW), and approximately one-fifth of the Library's workforce, 149 library staff, have been extended as DSWs through at least April 30.

Furthermore, nine neighborhood branches are in operation as community learning hubs through the remainder of the SFUSD academic year. While library staff and facilities have been leveraged for the emergency response and to support vulnerable youth impacted by the SFUSD school closures, limited library services have been gradually reintroduced with SFPL To Go launching last fall, and now in operation at thirteen locations with services being delivered in all eleven Supervisorial Districts. Virtual programming, the Summer Stride program, access to digital collections via the [sfpl.org virtual library](http://sfpl.org), and multilingual information services via the Telephone Information Program (TIP) at the Main Library have also been offered to library patrons.

Current Action

Library staff has prepared a draft plan for the continued phased reopening of the library system. This plan provides a framework for resuming limited in-person services in the current fiscal year (FY21) after the local public health order is revised to list library services as an allowable activity. As the central flagship for the SFPL system, the Main Library is slated to be the initial pilot site for resuming in-person services later this spring. The Chinatown Branch Library and Mission Bay Branch Library are also targeted to follow in subsequent weeks. Other neighborhood branches targeted for resuming in-person services this summer include Excelsior Branch Library, Visitacion Valley, Richmond, and Ortega. SFPL To Go locations will continue to offer pick-up services throughout the summer until all library locations are reopened for in-person services. The ability to quickly fill vacant positions and the continued return of library workers from their Disaster Service Worker (DSW) activations will ultimately determine the level of public services offered during this phased reopening in the weeks and months ahead.

The reopening plans for the San Francisco Public Library are consistent with the [California State Library's COVID-19 Guidance](#). The health and safety of library workers and our patrons remains a top priority as the Library reopens and will be in alignment with guidance from the Department of Public Health and local public health directives. Library staff welcomes the input and feedback of the Library Commission regarding plans for the phased reopening of library services.