
ADVISORY



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Plans to reopen Fife and Lakewood Pierce County Libraries in 2021

PIERCE COUNTY, Washington – The Pierce County Library System is reimagining services at the Fife and Lakewood Pierce County Libraries with plans to offer technology services starting in 2021, with no set date for reopening. The Library System is reviewing Washington State’s Safe Start requirements, for reopening libraries in Phase 2 counties up to 25% capacity.

The Library is preparing to offer computer, printing and Wi-Fi access safely in alignment with requirements in the States’ Safe Start plan. The Library System selected Fife and Lakewood Libraries because they serve communities with among the lowest in-home access to technology in Pierce County. Technology, such as computers with internet access, is a core library service, which the Library has been unable to offer since closing its buildings in March 2020 to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

The health and safety of the public and staff is a top priority of the Library’s plan to expand services. The Library System will continue to monitor COVID-19 cases in Pierce County and follow the guidance and information from state and local health officials, to determine the dates the Library System may safely reopen Fife and Lakewood Libraries with technology services.

The Library System continues to encourage people to use its [curbside service](#) and pick up books, movies and other items as well as access the Library’s many online resources including [e-books](#), [audiobooks](#) and [e-sources](#) for learning and enjoyment. In addition, the Library continues to invite people to join Virtual Library classes and events for early learners, students, teenagers and adults.

Also, in 2021 the Library System will continue not charging fines on overdue books and other materials, to help reduce further burdens on people during the economic crisis from the pandemic.

The Library System is excited to continue to serve Pierce County communities. Watch the Library’s [website](#) for information about the Library System’s plan and timeline.

About Pierce County Library System

The nationally acclaimed [Pierce County Library System](#) serves 620,000 people throughout Pierce County with 20 libraries and online services. The system is the fourth largest in the state and is funded primarily through property taxes. People may choose from 822,000 books, movies and other materials, as well as nearly half a million online/downloadable materials. Pierce County Library is committed to directing services in three primary areas: learning, enjoyment and community connection. Its services and programs spark success for Pierce County residents. More than 2 million people visit Pierce County Libraries each year. The Library provides services and programs directly to people in adult care facilities, people who are homebound, and to children in childcare centers and schools. [Pierce County Libraries are located](#) at Anderson Island, Bonney Lake, Buckley, DuPont, Eatonville, Fife, Gig Harbor, Graham, Key Center, Lakewood, Milton/Edgewood, Orting, Parkland/Spanaway, Pierce County Library Administrative Center, South Hill, Steilacoom, Summit, Sumner, Tillicum and University Place. Pierce County Library is an independent municipal corporation and operates as a junior taxing district.

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