



NEWS RELEASE
North Olympic Library System
2210 South Peabody Street
Port Angeles, WA 98362

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: June 17, 2020
Contact: Noah Glaude, Assistant Library Director
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Re: North Olympic Library System Begins Accepting Returns

In early June, Washington State issued [new guidance](#) allowing libraries to offer limited service in Phase 2 of the Safe Start Plan. While the guidance does not yet allow the North Olympic Library System (NOLS) to open its facilities to the public, it does allow the Library to start on the path to reopening by offering curbside returns and holds pickup.

Library Returns

All NOLS branches we will begin accepting returns via curbside service Wednesday, June 17, through Saturday, June 20, 11am-5pm. Due to a requirement to quarantine returned materials, and the enormous amount of material expected to be returned during this period, items will not show as returned in patron account for 7-10 working days. No fines will be charged for any overdue materials.

At this time, donations are NOT being accepted.

Holds Pickup

Curbside holds pickup begins Wednesday, June 24. It will be available 11am-5pm at all branches Monday through Friday, and 10am-1pm on Saturdays at the Forks Branch, Sequim Branch and Port Angeles Main Library. To help protect employees and the public, all patrons are encouraged to wear a face covering when visiting the library.

To use curbside holds pickup, patrons can place a hold from the catalog online as normal, or contact customer service staff via phone to request material. When holds arrive at the branch selected, standard hold emails, phone calls or text notifications will be sent. When patrons arrive at their library branch, they should follow the prompts in the parking area for the next steps to pick up their holds. At the Port Angeles Main Library, patrons should enter the parking lot from the west off Chase Street. To help the flow of traffic, the library parking lot will not be accessible from Peabody Street.

Due to the significant number of existing holds, and the large number of new holds expected in the coming weeks, wait times for holds may be longer than patrons are typically accustomed to.

Due Dates

Physical items checked out before the library closure in mid-March will keep their original due dates, but no overdue fees will be charged when those items are returned. Patrons should return materials when it is safe for them to do so. If a patron or anyone in their household has been experiencing symptoms related to COVID-19, they should not return their library materials.

Normal loan periods will be applied to items checked out on or after June 22.

New Safety Measures

In compliance with Washington State Safe Start requirements, all staff members are required to wear cloth face masks. As a courtesy to staff and others, NOLS encourages anyone who is able to wear a face-covering while visiting the Library. Additionally, all returned library materials will be quarantined for 72 hours before being processed.

The Library is increasing cleaning, paying particular attention to high touch areas such as handrails, doors and handles. Staff are provided cleaning supplies to regularly clean workspaces and gloves to allow safe handling of materials, regular access to soap and warm water for

handwashing and hand sanitizer is provided in all locations, and physical distance of six-feet will be maintained at all times between staff and other patrons.

Other Library Services

The Library is always open online, and will continue to serve the community in diverse ways during this public health emergency. Sign up for the Summer Reading Program at www.nols.org/srp and learn about the exciting events happening throughout the summer for all ages.

All meeting room reservations have be cancelled through at least Monday, August 31. No new meeting room reservations are being accepted at this time.

Public Wi-Fi will remain available outside of each NOLS branch 24/7 and a robust selection of online resources is always available at www.nols.org/online-resources.

Make a virtual visit to the library at www.nols.org, or follow NOLS on Facebook and Instagram, to enjoy events, online resources, and other NOLS services.

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