

# Public libraries make borrowing safe

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## FULL TEXT

Your public library has made borrowing library materials easy and safe while our state wrangles with COVID-19. The items you return to the library are quarantined before they are made available to anyone else, and requesting materials is easy.

If you would like help choosing materials, call your library and ask for a selection of materials, find out the order of books in a series, or use an online reader's advisory tool. Request the items you want by calling your library or placing a hold in your library's online catalog.

If you want to check out at Appleton, Kimberly, Little Chute or Kaukauna, go to [infosoup.org](http://infosoup.org). If you are using the libraries in Neenah or Menasha, go to [catalog.winnefox.org](http://catalog.winnefox.org) or download the Winnefox Mobile app on your smartphone. You will be notified when your materials are ready to be picked up. You will need to schedule a time for pickup at the Appleton library; the others give you a week to stop by.

Call your library to ask how to register for or update a library card.

Libraries are producing great programs for you to attend virtually while you are safe at home. Join a book discussion. Watch a story time with your children. Meet up with an author or attend a cooking program. Find them on your library's Facebook page or look on their website for links to connect.

Find ebooks, online picture books, newspapers, magazines, audiobooks, videos, music, and classes on your library's website. Use Wi-Fi outside your library. Pick up take and make crafts. Or ask about personal business services such as photocopying, printing, and faxing. Some libraries offer home delivery. Your library may have a computer or laptop available. Call your library with reference questions.

Children's access to books impacts their whole lives. Now is a good time to replace some of your child's screen time with books. Call and ask for a bunch of books at a given grade level, and let your librarian do the rest. Or fill out an online form.

We are all waiting out this virus together, and your library's staff members know that access to library service is more important than ever during this critical time. The health of community members and library employees is also very important. Library directors and library boards weigh those factors every day and plan to offer library services at various stages based on available staffing and advice from our municipal or county health departments. This year your library has had to re-invent the way it serves your community, quickly adapting to everything we are learning about the coronavirus. Thank you for your patience. And thank you for continuing to use your library.

Vicki Lenz is the director of the Elisha D. Smith Public Library in Menasha.

Library contacts

Appleton: 920-832-6173, [apl.org](http://apl.org)

Kaukauna 920-766-6340, [kaukaunalibrary.org](http://kaukaunalibrary.org)

Kimberly 920-788-7515, [kimlit.org](http://kimlit.org)

Little Chute 920-788-7825, [kimlit.org](http://kimlit.org)

Menasha 920-967-3690, [menashalibrary.org](http://menashalibrary.org)

Neenah 920-886-6315, [neenahlibrary.org](http://neenahlibrary.org)

Vicki Lenz

Guest Columnist

Appleton Post-Crescent

USA TODAY NETWORK

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