BUILDING STATUS IN 2020

Was the Main Library closed during most of 2020? No. Here’s a brief summary of building status during the pandemic, from March 2020 through March 2021.

MARCH 11
The World Health Organization declares COVID-19 a pandemic. In the following weeks and months, Illinois mandates then extends stay-at-home orders and introduces its phased plan to Restore Illinois Plan (May 5).

MARCH 12
All library buildings close. Plans for safer working and reopen begin. Digital library expands.

JUNE 1
Staff return to Main Library to prepare for contact-free services, beginning June 15. Walk-up and curbside pickup available.

JULY 22
Main Library opens for browsing, holds pickup, item returns, computer use, and remote printing job pickup. Delivery of items, resources, and summer reading prizes begins.

NOV 12
Staff infection closes building. Stay-at-home advisories extend closure through Dec. 15. Digital library access 24/7.

DEC 16
Building opens for self-service holds pickup and item returns.

JAN 8, 2021
Team quarantine closes building through Jan. 21; Jan. 22 building opens for self-service holds pickup and item returns.

MARCH 1, 2021
Main Library opens for browsing, holds pickup, item returns, computer use, and remote printing job pickup.

MARCH 11
Restrictions begin to loosen as Illinois enters Phase 3 of the Restore Illinois Plan.

JUNE 26
Illinois enters Phase 4; Chicago follows stricter guidelines.

JULY 16
Under the Restore Illinois Plan, the state is further divided into 11 (vs. 4) regions following tiers. In suburban Cook County, Oak Park is in Region 10, where restrictions are slower to loosen.

NOV 13
Restrictions tighten as stay-at-home advisories are issued for Chicago and suburban Cook County. On Nov. 20, Region 10 enters and remains in Tier 3 (the most restrictive) through Jan. 9.

NOV 12
Restrictions begin to loosen as Region 10 moves to Tier 1.

JAN 25, 2021
Restrictions continue to loosen as Region 10 moves to Phase 4 and Oak Park public schools introduce hybrid learning.

Source for state dates: Husch Blackwell