

Media Alert

Date: July 19, 2021 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: Stephanie Bonestell Public Relations Officer 919-560-0151 or <u>sbonestell@dconc.gov</u>

Durham County Library Expanded Hours Beginning Tuesday, July 20

Durham, NC — Durham County Library has new, expanded business hours beginning Tuesday, July 20. Main

Library will reopen on the same day from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. and will begin operating on the updated business hours outlined below on Wednesday, July 21. The hours for all locations except Bragtown Branch Library will be as follows:

Monday–Wednesday	9:30 a.m.–8 p.m.
Thursday–Saturday	9:30 a.m.–6 p.m.

The hours for Bragtown Branch Library are as follows:

Monday	1–8 p.m.
Tuesday–Friday	10 a.m.–6 p.m.

All locations are currently closed on Sundays.

"By expanding our open hours, we are responding to the need for greater access to the library and a return to normalcy after this past year," says Tammy Baggett-Best, Library Director. "We are looking forward to spending more time with the community at our library locations."

The move to expand open hours for the library system is in line with data and insights from the Durham County Department of Public Health as the county continues to lift COVID restrictions in light of community vaccination and decreasing case numbers. As always, the safety of our community and staff members is our greatest priority. All library locations continue to observe safety requirements for customers, such as:

• Asking screening questions;

- Checking temperatures;
- Mandating face masks for ages 2+; and
- Requiring physical distancing.

The library's service philosophy will continue to focus on access versus assistance. Library staff will be available to provide limited assistance to issue library cards, check out materials, and access computers. Customers are encouraged to utilize self-checkout and to place holds online for pickup. <u>Pre-recorded</u> and <u>live programming</u> will continue to be offered online rather than in-person at this time. Library open hours are primarily an opportunity for library customers to browse the collection, select items to check out, and utilize the computers.

Durham County Library encourages discovery, connects the community, and leads in literacy. As a department of Durham County Government, the library furthers Goal 1 of the county's Strategic Plan by enhancing cultural, educational, and creative opportunities. For more information about the library, visit <u>DurhamCountyLibrary.org</u>.

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