



WAUKESHA PUBLIC LIBRARY

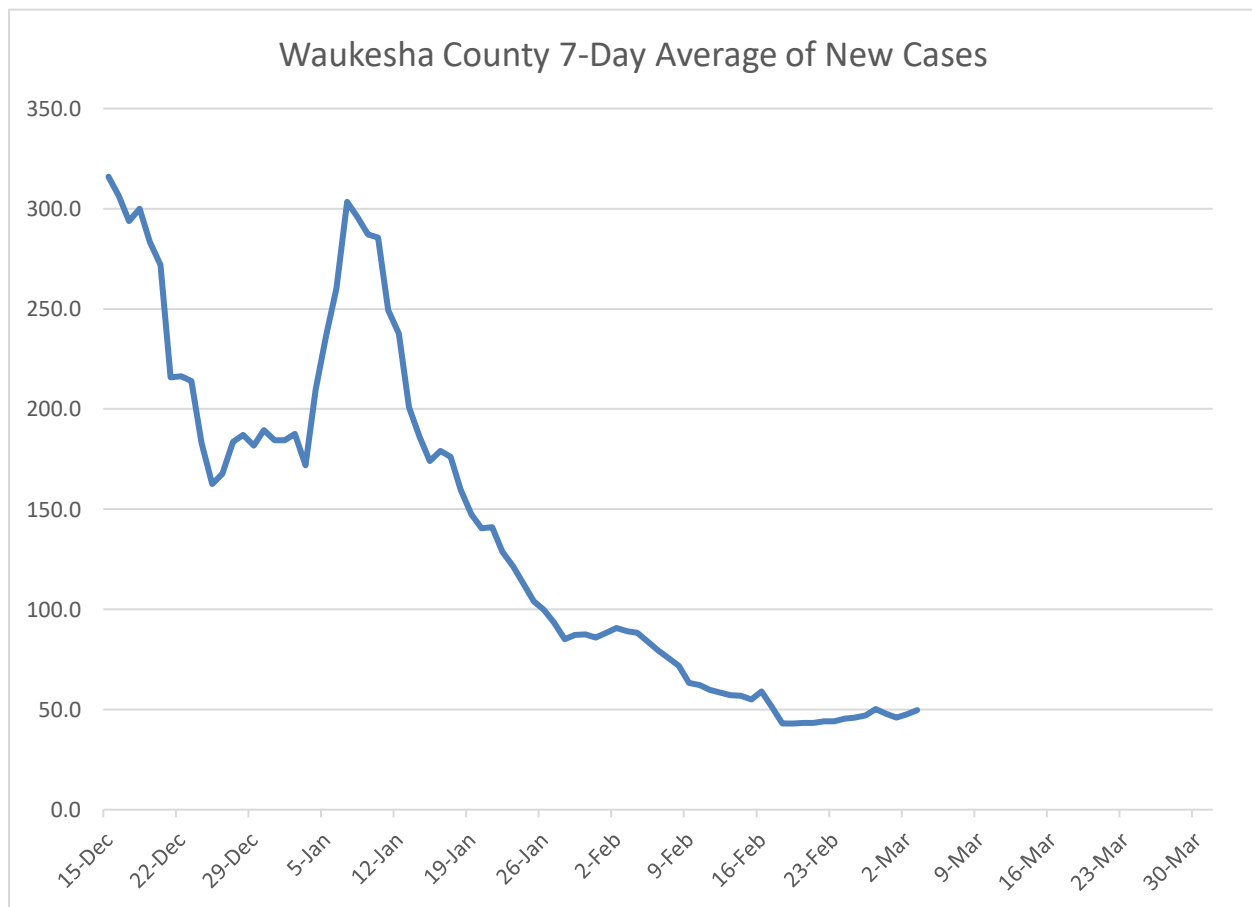
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Bruce Gay, Library Director
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March 4, 2021

To: Library Board of Trustees
From: Bruce Gay, Library Director
Re: Library Pandemic Response

We are approaching the one-year anniversary of closing the library because of the pandemic. We closed beginning on Monday, March 16, 2020. At that point I certainly did not imagine that 12 months later we would still be strategizing how to safely reopen our full services.



On February 22 the library removed barriers to browsing and extended Monday hours to 8:30. Customer reactions were positive. I believe the staff is generally satisfied with the pace of adding services. We continue to watch the new cases in the county as a metric for adding service. On February 18 the county new case average was 43.1. Since then the number has inched up—on March 3 there were 49.7 new cases per day.

Increased Service Plan

As long as the numbers stay generally flat or start going down, I'd like to add services in the following order:

1. Increase number of public computers available and increase a computer session to 30 minutes. Computer use is probably the service most requested now, since we've opened the building for browsing.
2. Increase evening hours to the normal schedule: Monday through Thursday 9-8:30, Friday 9-6. In a typical year we would be winding down with Sunday hours in the late Spring. I recommend continuing to stay closed on Sunday and keep Saturday hours from 9-1. In the Fall we would return to a full schedule.
3. Add customer seating, separating seats to promote social distancing.

Ideally we would increase our level of service every few weeks and operate "normally," with these additions, by the middle of April. We will continue to require masks, promote social distancing, and encourage short visits.

Vaccines

As of March 4 there are no plans for library staff to be vaccinated. This is a quickly changing topic and I am hopeful that with the increased supply of vaccines we will be vaccinated in the next month or so.

