

To the community of the East Moline Public Library:

As part of the library's commitment to work within health guidelines and recommended prevention strategies to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, and to limit the exposure to our community, the facility will be closed to the public starting at 5pm on March 16th until at least Wednesday April 1st, with a reopening date decided as more information becomes available. The book drop will also close for the duration and there will be no staff on site.

As part of our commitment to serve the community we continue to offer digital services through OverDrive, RB Digital, Hoonuit and Universal Classes. If you have not had a chance to explore our digital offerings now is a great time. You can find links to access these through our website at www.eastmolinelibrary.org . In the spirit of cooperation I would also like to share with you a wonderful list of recommended online resources compiled by the DeKalb Public Library, found on their website at <http://dkpl.org/resources-for-at-home-learning/> .

At this time all library materials that have a due date of 3/13/20 – 3/31/20 will have an extended due date of April 7th 2020. No late fees will be accrued during the closure. Because there is no delivery of library materials, all items placed on hold will be suspended until such time as services begin again. Any patron who has a library card that expires in the month of March will have that automatically renewed until April of 2020.

This decision was reached with the Library Board of Trustees and Administration after careful evaluation. A variety of factors prompted the service change including the declaration of a national emergency, the latest health information available as of today and the safety of the community. Very specific factors to our library include the closing of the school district which would most likely prompt significant foot traffic in the library in close quarters with an inability to continually sanitize, the play areas that encourage gathering, vulnerable populations that visit the library including senior citizens, and the inability to maintain social distancing in our small space. We would rather close for the greater good than become an epicenter for transmission and spread.

At an abundance of caution we urge our community to stay calm. These measures are in place with the mindset of prudence according to recommendations and not public panic or known exposure. A prevention mindset helps flatten the curve of exposure risk, assisting our community and healthcare resources with a goal of wellness. We understand that public opinion may be varied, however as a matter of concern and a deep understanding of the users of the library and the limitations of the facility and staff, these difficult decisions were reached with the most reputable information resources available.

You may direct questions, concerns, or suggestions concerning service plans and library resources to my email, longl@eastmolinelibrary.org

Sincerely,

Laura Long, Director