It is with much consideration that the Ashland Public Library has decided to close all operations to the public until further notice effective 3/17/2020 at 7pm.

This decision was difficult to make as the library has always been seen as a community hub, however the current situation calls for action. The scientific evidence that early social distancing can help stop the spread of the coronavirus was a compelling factor in taking this precautionary step on behalf of our patrons, staff, and our community during this global health crisis.

While the library is closed, and Bookmobile/Outreach Suspended our digital resources will still be available for you to use. We encourage you to take advantage of the many online resources found on our website: www.ashland.lib.oh.us. This includes access to thousands of digital eBooks and Audiobooks the Overdrive or Libby apps on your device. Step-by-step instructions for downloading these apps can be found on our website.

Wi-Fi will still be available outside the library 24/7 the networks are **APL-Guest** or **APL-Outdoor** and the password for both is: *connected.* Devices can be used from the car or on the benches outside the library. Please note if a large number of devices are utilizing the Wi-Fi, the service may be limited on speed.

Please enjoy the materials you currently have checked out. The book drop will be closed for the duration of our closure. Due dates will be extended and all overdue fines will be waived.

Stay tuned to our website and Facebook account for updated information as this situation continues to evolve.

To stay healthy, the CDC and other health agencies recommend:
1. Washing your hands frequently. Wash your hands for 20 seconds or more with soapy water. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
2. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
3. Avoid contact with people who are sick.
4. Stay home and away from others if you are sick.
5. Clean and disinfect objects and surfaces frequently.
6. Cover your mouth/nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing.

Trusted Information Sources

Sharing accurate information from trusted sources is critical to reduce misinformation. Find reliable and current information about the outbreak from local and national agencies below.

Ohio Department of Health

The Ohio Department of Health maintains a website with the up-to-date information on the outbreak, current risk to the public, and links to helpful resources. https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/Novel-Coronavirus

ODH has also set up a call center to address questions regarding COVID-19. It is open seven days a week from 9 a.m.-8 p.m. and can be reached at **1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634)**.

Centers for Disease Control

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has set up a website with a range of information about the current risk to the public, symptoms to watch for, prevention, testing, and advice for schools, communities and businesses. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html

The situation with the Coronavirus (COVID-19) is evolving daily. We will keep you informed of any changes to our scheduled events. For the latest information, please check our website at *www.ashland.lib.oh.us* or our Facebook page *@AshlandPublicLibraryOhio.*

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