

News Release and Public Information Announcement

Argenta-Oreana Public Library District Closure, March 17 through April 30, 2020.

After considerable deliberation, the Argenta-Oreana Public Library District has decided to close to the public to help slow the spread of the novel coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19). The closure will be in effect from Tuesday, March 17, 2020 through Thursday, April 30, 2020. AOPLD will continue to evaluate this rapidly changing situation.

On March 13, 2020, Governor Pritzker mandated that all schools in the state be closed from Tuesday, March 17 until Monday, March 30, 2020. He then issued a Stay at Home Executive Order until April 7, 2020, in an effort to curb the spread and impact of the COVID-19 coronavirus. This Executive Order has now been extended to April 30, 2020. While normally we would invite our school-aged children to come to the library in the event of an emergency closing, this is not the best course of action when trying to curb a contagious disease. Because containment works best when all organizations participate, many libraries and other cultural organizations will be closed for the foreseeable future.

Here is what AOPLD will be doing:

- All Library-sponsored programming is cancelled through the end of April.
- All third-party meetings are cancelled.
- **Overdue fines will not accrue** while the library is closed. Book drops will be emptied each day and items will be quarantined for a minimum of 48 hours before being checked in.
- Area libraries have graciously extended due dates and are waiving overdue fines. Please do not worry about your items that you have out!
- AOPLD participates in the Library on the Go resource. If you have a tablet, smart phone or computer you can download items from Libby/Overdrive as long as your library card is valid. See our website for more information.
- Even though the buildings will be closed, AOPLD has free wifi that you can reach in the parking lot. After connecting to the wifi, you must accept our terms of service before you can proceed.
- If you are having difficulties, please contact AOPLD at 217-795-2144 or 217-468-2340, staff will be checking our messages daily. You can also send an email to Donna Schaal at director@aopld.lib.il.us.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this rapidly evolving health crisis. We are working to keep the public and the library staff as safe as possible. AOPLD will continue to monitor and adjust to this changing situation. Services available over the coming weeks are subject to change depending on what is needed to protect the health of our communities.

Please check our website @ aopld.org or our Facebook page @ <https://www.facebook.com/Argenta-Oreana-Public-Library-District-133476040031350> (or search Facebook for Argenta-Oreana Public Library District) for up-to-date information about when the library will reopen.

Library Director, Argenta-Oreana Public Library District