

Library Closure Announcement—UPDATED 3/29/20

On March 13, 2020, Governor Pritzker mandated that all schools in the state be closed beginning Tuesday, March 17 until further notice in an effort to curb the spread and impact of the COVID-19 coronavirus.

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 same duration.

Case-Halstead Public Library will be closed immediately beginning Monday, March 16 until further notice. This includes any events hosted by third-party organizations as well as all meeting rooms.

- Overdue fines will not accrue while the library is closed. Patrons are strongly encouraged to hang on to their library materials until further notice. Indeed fines and late charges are waived until further notice and even after the library reopens you will have several days to return your materials.

- **E-resources**

-E-books and Audiobooks are always available through the Cloud Library, a link to which is provided on our website at casehalstead.org. All of the Gale research databases we subscribe to are also available via the website or mobile version of the website but they can only be used with a valid Case-Halstead Public Library patron card. If you have any questions during this period, you can call my cell phone at 618-979-2623.

Case-Halstead Public Library will keep up with the latest news and you are welcome to check the website or Facebook page for more updates.

This is not a decision we take lightly and indeed this decision has only been made after several days of consideration in consultation with our library consortium partners, the Illinois Department of Public Health, the county department of health, the Illinois State Library, the City of Carlyle and indeed the Governor's office itself. We are responsible as a community organization not only for protecting the spread of the virus, but also for the welfare of our library staff.

I most sincerely appreciate your consideration in this vital matter.

Please refer to the CDC website at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus

For more information.

Keith Housewright

Director

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