



From the State Library - March 17, 2020

Update from the State Library on COVID-19 Coronavirus Guidance



Earlier today, Governor Kim Reynolds [issued a State of Public Health Disaster Emergency](#), ordering dine-in restaurants and bars, fitness centers, theaters, casinos, mass gatherings over 10 people, and senior centers to close effective at noon today through 11:59 p.m. on March 31, 2020. Although libraries are not explicitly mentioned in the order, libraries should seriously evaluate closing to the public as soon as possible to protect public health.

In addition, the [Iowa Library Association recommends](#) that public and academic libraries suspend public operations and consider closing to prevent the spread of the virus. And today, the American Library Association Executive Board [released the following statement](#):

"The ALA Executive Board unequivocally stands in support of the safety and well-being of library workers and the communities we serve," stated the board. "To protect library workers and their communities from exposure to COVID-19 in these unprecedented times, we strongly recommend that academic, public and school library leaders and their trustees and governing bodies evaluate closing libraries to the public and only reopening when guidance from public health officials indicates the risk from COVID-19 has significantly subsided."

In order to avoid unnecessary services and confusion during your closure, if your library has made the decision to close to the public, please take the following steps as soon as possible (if you have not already done so):

- Contact your [District Staff](#) to let them know. Please include:
 - The length of time you plan to be closed
 - If staff will still report
 - If you will continue to offer interlibrary loans
 - If you will maintain your regular IA Shares weekly delivery
- Notify the [Mobius Helpdesk](#) to suspend IA Shares deliveries (if needed).
- Set your SILO ILL account to suspend status and indicate a date to restart (if needed).

As a reminder, State Library staff are still working and are available by phone and email to answer any questions.

[Contact Your District Staff](#)

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The State Library is supported in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act.