



## Bartholomew County Public Library

### COVID-19 Response Update

As our mission statement reads, the Bartholomew County Public Library is the community crossroads- connecting people, ideas, information, and experiences to empower everyone on their journey of lifelong learning. We take that mission seriously in all times and recognize that this service can occur in many different ways.

Ordinarily these services include entertaining and information programs for all ages. However, we now face an unprecedented risk in the COVID-19 virus. We have decided that for the safety of our patrons, staff, and the community that it is in everyone's best interest to cancel all programming, events, and meeting room reservations from Saturday, March 13 until Sunday, April 5th. These dates could be altered depending on the ever-changing guidance which comes to us. Bookmobile and outreach services will be handled on a case-by-case basis, but will be restricted.

We are examining ways in which we can alter or modify some of our programs to be accessed virtually and will provide updates on Facebook, through our email newsletter, and our website: [mybcpl.org](http://mybcpl.org). This fits right in with the plethora of digital materials we offer 24 hours a day, 7 days a week through our website. Ebooks, audiobooks, music, movies, magazines, language learning resources, genealogy materials, etc... can all be accessed with your library card at our website or via our new app. If you need help, please give us a call at 812-379-1266.

Our buildings also provide a much needed service to many of our patrons. Our wireless internet is used by students for e-learning and patrons of all ages for work, school, and more. We are also a source of refuge for the most vulnerable in our community. To that end, we plan to keep our buildings open and operating at our normal hours as long as we are permitted to do so. However, we would encourage all immunocompromised or those at a potential high-risk according to the CDC to consider staying away from our buildings. We also ask that anyone exhibiting a fever or other symptoms indicating they are contagious to stay away from our buildings.

We are continuing our efforts to clean and disinfect commonly touched surfaces frequently. We have hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes available for patron use. However, this may change as supplies throughout the nation continue to dwindle. As some patrons have asked, the library does not currently disinfect borrowed materials when they are checked in, or as they are browsed, or used in-house. Disinfecting these types of items and materials is currently not recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the American Library Association.

Thank you for your cooperation, patience, and understanding as we work through this developing situation.