THE LIBRARY CLOSING: A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

March 20, 2020

UPDATE: The library system will be closed until further notice. Please don't return any items you have to any dropbox until we reopen. Fines have been suspended.

As news of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak continues to evolve, Brockton Public Library is taking new steps to help ensure the health and safety of its staff, visitors, and community.

At the recommendation of the Mayor and the Trustees, **Brockton Public Library will now be closed until further notice.** We did not arrive at this decision easily – please know that while we are aware of the impact on our community, including the loss of access to in-person services and gathering spaces, we choose to close the library after lengthy discussions with the Mayor and other City departments.

Please read on for information about your library account and services.

HOLDS

Don't worry about your items on the hold shelf. Anything that's on the hold shelves when we close will still be there when we reopen.

DUE DATES

Don't worry about your items you have out. We are in the process of changing all due dates to **April 30** for now. **Please don't return any items you have to the dropbox until we reopen.**

REQUESTS

You'll still be able to place requests during the closure, but no items will be pulled to fill requests during the closure.

EMAIL & PHONE

We will continue to monitor email and phone calls. If you have questions please contact us at (508) 894-1400 or btlib@ocln.org

WHAT TO DO DURING THIS CLOSURE

BrPL is committed to keeping you entertained and informed throughout this difficult time. Here are just some of the great resources we offer **online**:

- **Hoopla** – Download/stream music, movies, ebooks, audiobooks, and comics
- **Overdrive** – Download ebooks and audiobooks
- **Kanopy**- Start watching the Criterion Collection, The Great Courses, Sundance and Oscar winning films and documentaries.
- **RBDigital** – Download magazines
- **ODILO** – Foreign Language e-books in Spanish, French, Portuguese and Russian
- **Creativebug** – Arts and Crafts classes for all skill levels. Class topics include: Art and Design, Knitting and Crochet, Sewing and Quilting, Papercrafts, Jewelry Making, Food and Home Decor, Holiday and Party Ideas, and Crafts for Kids
- **Freegal Music** - Download music and music videos from your computer or mobile device. All you need is your library card!

PROGRAMMING

The staff is working hard creating online programming for children, teens, and adults during the closure.

We will keep you informed with regular updates, so please do check on our website, http://www.brocktonpubliclibrary.org/. It is our hope that these steps will help contribute to the sustained good health of our community and will offer some assurance during this distressing time.

Respectfully,

Paul Engle

Director, Brockton Public Library

P.S. As for online resources about the Coronavirus (COVID-19), we recommend…

City Of Brockton DPW Emergency service guidelines for COVID-19
The Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: How COVID-19 Spreads

Johns Hopkins Medicine, Coronavirus at a Glance: Infographic
Local and National Covid-19 resources

P.P.S Here are some things to do during with your kids from home....

Museums:

Stuck at Home? These 12 Famous Museums Offer Virtual Tours You Can Take on Your Couch (Video)
https://www.travelandleisure.com/attractions/museums-galleries/museums-with-virtual-tours

22 ways to leave home without actually leaving the couch, from virtual zoo exhibits to museum gallery tours
https://www.insider.com/museums-theme-parks-offer-virtual-tours-ideal-for-social-distancing-2020-3

Free concerts:

Live Streams & Virtual Concerts to Watch During Coronavirus Crisis
https://www.billboard.com/articles/columns/pop/9335531/coronavirus-quarantine-music-events-online-streams

Enjoy these online concerts from the comfort of your own home
https://www.inman.com/2020/03/17/enjoy-these-online-concerts-from-the-comfort-of-your-own-home/

Kids resources:

Kids National Geographic
https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/

Boston Children's Museum
https://bostonchildrensmuseum.org/learning-resources/100-ways-play

PBS Kids
https://www.pbs.org/parents/activity-finder/ages-all/topics-all/shows-all/types-all