Columbus Metropolitan Library responds to COVID-19 coronavirus

COLUMBUS—Columbus Metropolitan Library (CML) is committed to serving the needs of the public while also working to ensure the safety and health of our customers, staff and the community. With the outbreak of the coronavirus, or COVID-19, we are monitoring information and following guidelines provided by our city, county and state health officials and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

While the library currently remains open, with an overabundance of caution, we are canceling all classes, programs, meetings and events at all Columbus Metropolitan Library locations through at least March 31. We will keep you informed of any additional changes in operation as this rapidly changing public health situation continues.

We encourage any concerned customers, especially those who are elderly or at a higher risk of contracting this virus, to avoid visiting our library locations if they are feeling ill or concerned about potential exposure.

Thank you for your understanding as we respond to this unprecedented public health crisis.

Canceled CML programs, events and services through at least March 31 include:

- The Gahanna Branch design unveiling meeting scheduled for March 18
- The Karl Road Branch groundbreaking ceremony scheduled for March 25
- All youth programming, including Ready for Kindergarten Storytimes and classes, afterschool Homework Help, Reading Buddies. While our programs are canceled, we are exploring options to continue with providing afternoon snack.

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- Adult Classes, including technology classes, business classes and workshops
- Lobby Stop services, which provides books and other materials to a number of Franklin County assisted living facilities and senior housing, will be suspended.

Columbus Metropolitan Library has served the people of Franklin County, Ohio since 1873. With its Main Library and 22 branches, CML is well known for signature services and programs like Homework Help, Reading Buddies, Summer Reading Challenge and Ready for Kindergarten. The library’s Strategic Plan supports the vision of “a thriving community where wisdom prevails,” which positions CML to respond to areas of urgent need: kids unprepared for kindergarten, third grade reading proficiency, high school graduation, college and career readiness and employment resources.

CML was named a 2011 National Medal Winner by the Institute for Museum and Library Services for work in community service, the highest honor for libraries and museums. CML was also named 2010 Library of the Year by Library Journal.

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