Columbus Metropolitan Library to close in response to COVID-19 coronavirus
All 23 locations to close through at least April 6

COLUMBUS—Columbus Metropolitan Library (CML) will close all 23 of its library locations effective at 6 p.m. today, Friday, March 13, and remain closed through at least April 6.

“This decision was not made lightly,” said CML CEO Patrick Losinski. “The scientific evidence that early social distancing can help stop the spread of the coronavirus was a compelling factor in taking this precautionary step on behalf of our customers, staff and the community during this pandemic. In response to Gov. Mike DeWine’s orders closing all K-12 schools and prohibiting mass gatherings, we have determined that we will close.”

CML will continue to follow guidelines provided by local, county and state health officials and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

While CML locations will be closed for this extended period of time, digital library resources are available at columbuslibrary.org, including eBooks, eAudiobooks, magazines, movies and music, plus research and learning tools.

The safety of customers and staff is a priority for the library. Follow CML on social media (Facebook, Twitter) and check columbuslibrary.org for updates. Additional changes in operation will be shared as this rapidly evolving public health situation continues to unfold.

CML is grateful to its customers, friends, colleagues and supporters who have expressed their concern and understanding during this uncertain time.

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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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