

News Release and Public Information Announcement

Mt. Zion District Library Closure through April 8, 2020 (but, subject to change):

Following the Governor's stay at home order on March 20, 2020, the Mt. Zion District Library will remain closed through April 8, 2020 to help slow the spread of the novel coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19.) The Library will evaluate the need to extend the closure by closely monitoring the rapidly changing situation.

On March 13, 2020, Governor Pritzker mandated that all schools in the state be closed from Tuesday, March 17 until Monday, March 30, 2020, in an effort to curb the spread and impact of the COVID-19 coronavirus. On March 20, he issued a stay at home order for all of Illinois.

Here is what the Library is doing:

- Closing to the public through April 8 (possibly longer if the situation warrants).

- All Library sponsored programming is cancelled through the end of April with the exception of the Shredding Event on April 18 (subject to change). All story times are cancelled and will resume in early June.

- All third-party meetings are cancelled.

- Overdue fines will not accrue while the library is closed. Book drops will be emptied each day and items will be quarantined for a minimum of 48 hours before being checked in, but patrons are asked to keep their materials until our library reopens.
- **Electronic Resources: We encourage our patrons to check out our many electronic resources that will continue to be available during the closure.**
 - o E-books, movies, and music, are always available online through our website and through free apps. Visit <http://mtzion.lib.il.us> Please email the library at: library@mtzion.lib.il.us if you need help setting up an e-resource account or have questions about our e-services. Library staff will respond as soon as possible.
 - o We have increased the limit for checkouts on Hoopla to 10 per month.
 - o We have added Tumble Books providing a wide variety of digital books, audiobooks, and educational documentaries for all ages. These are streamed (not downloaded) with no limits or waiting time. **Please visit our website for access to these.**

Here are some ways you can help prevent the spread of the virus through the library and its materials:

Remember that no items will accrue fines while the library remains closed.

If you have a tablet, a smart phone or want to use your computer, you can download items from RBDigital, Cloud Library, Libby/Overdrive or Hoopla so you do not have to come to the library. See these are available to Mt. Zion Library card holders only. If you have a card from a different library, you will need to contact them to find out what ebook and e-resource options they offer. Your card must not be expired. If your card has recently expired or will expire within the next month, we have extended expiration dates through the end of April.

- Refrain from eating while reading, and do not lick your fingers when you turn the pages of a book.
- Wash your hands thoroughly and frequently.
- Self-isolation is a key to minimizing risk to yourself and/or others.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this rapidly evolving health crisis. We are working to keep the public and the library staff as safe as possible. The Mt. Zion District Library is continuing to monitor and adjust to this changing situation. Services available over the coming weeks are subject to change depending on what is needed to protect the health of our communities.

Please check our website @ <http://mtzion.lib.il.us> and our Facebook @ <https://www.facebook.com/Mt-Zion-District-Library-462028983837921/> (or search for facebook Mt. Zion District Library) and/or Instagram: @mtzlibrary for up-to-date information about when the library will reopen.

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