



City of Houston

Houston Public Library Media Alert

Date: March 17, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Houston Public Library Extends Suspension of onsite Service through March 2020

HOUSTON - All Houston Public Library locations will be closed through the end of the month in an effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The closures come in response to directives from Mayor Sylvester Turner as well as Harris County and federal guidelines.

Houston Public Library's many free online resources and digital services remain available 24/7 with your MY Link Library Card at www.houstonlibrary.org, including e-books and e-audiobooks, streaming TV, movie and music services, online classes and tutoring, and databases.

In our efforts to minimize the impacts of the closure, support continued access to library services and resources for our customers, and to help protect staff and customers against the spread of COVID-19, the following changes are in effect.

WHEN:

Tuesday, March 17, 2020 - March 31, 2020

DUE DATES:

All due dates for existing borrowed materials will be extended through the closure period.

LATE FEES & FINES:

Until further notice, no new late fees and fines will be assessed during the closure period, retroactive to March 14, 2020.

LIBRARY CARD EXPIRATIONS:

Until further notice, expired library cards will be renewed automatically.

HOLDS:

All existing customer holds on physical items (i.e. books, dvd, etc.) will be suspended through the closure period.

Until further notice, only electronic items (i.e. e-books, e-audio books, etc.) are eligible for holds and check-out.

HPL has a robust collection of free e-books and audio books! Please visit www.houstontx.gov to determine if your hold selection may be in a digital format! Instructions on how to download the e-book or audio book are also on the site.

We encourage you to visit the City of Houston's Emergency Operations Center website at <https://houstonemergency.org/covid19> or call 832.393.4220 for more information meant to slow the spread of COVID-19 and reduce the number of people infected.

**ABOUT THE
HOUSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY**

The Houston Public Library (HPL) operates 37 neighborhood libraries, three HPL Express Libraries, a Central Library, the Houston Metropolitan Research Center, the Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research, The African American Library at the Gregory School, and the Parent Resource Library located in the Children's Museum of Houston. With more than eight million visits per year in person and online, HPL is committed to excellent customer service and equitable access to information and programs by providing library customers with free use of a diverse collection of printed materials and electronic resources, Internet, laptop and computer use, and a variety of database and reference resources with live assistance online 24/7.

For further information, visit the Houston Public Library at www.houstonlibrary.org, on **Twitter** @houstonlibrary, on **Facebook** – houstonlibrary or call 832-393-1313.

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www.houstonlibrary.org

