

Coronavirus FAQ from the Independence Public Library

March 14, 2020

The Independence Public Library is committed to serving our community and providing access to services and information. Library staff are monitoring information about COVID-19 from authoritative health organizations as we consider how to balance access to resources while also protecting the health of our patrons and staff. The library will continue to monitor the situation and will keep our community informed about any safety measures that will impact our programs and services.

The library has compiled a guide of links to reputable health information about COVID-19 that can be accessed here: <http://www.independenceia.org/533/Coronavirus>. Another way to get to this information is to go to library's website, www.independenceia.org/library and click on Coronavirus under News Flash.

Will the library continue to stay open?

The library has no plans to close at this time. The situation will continue to be monitored, and the library board and staff will consider recommendations and follow mandates from authoritative health and government organizations in making these decisions.

Will the library hold events?

In accord with recommendations from the State Library of Iowa, our library is canceling or postponing its remaining programs for March. Later in March we will reassess to make determinations about April programming.

What can I access online during this time?

Use your Library Card:

[BRIDGES](#) - downloadable books, ebooks, magazines, and movies.

Call the library 319-334-2470 if you don't know the password for the following resources:

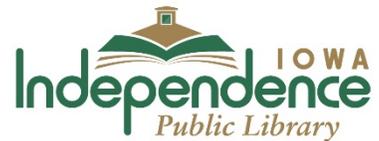
[Brainfuse](#) - employment and veterans services

[Chilton](#) - repair, maintenance, and service info for vehicles

[Credo](#) – a wide variety of reference information plus images, audio files, and videos

[Gale](#) - Books and Authors, Health and Wellness, Home Improvement, & much more

[Transparent Language](#) – language learning tool



What is the library doing to protect the health of patrons and staff?

The library encourages the basic health protocols for staff and patrons. These consist of washing your hands frequently, covering your cough, and staying home when sick. We are taking extra measures with cleaning, being extra diligent in disinfecting frequently touched surfaces like door handles, counters, and keyboards.

Are all services still available when I visit the library?

Most services are available as normal. Programs are being postponed or canceled through March, to be reassessed later in the month. Items that cannot be disinfected as frequently as conditions warrant will be temporarily unavailable – that includes Legos, trains, puppets, and art kits.

I don't feel comfortable going out in public due to the virus, but I got a message that my card has expired.

What do I do?

The library is extending patron card expiration dates of those expiring now through May to June 1. There is also a 30-day grace period, so that gives patrons until July 1 to get to the library to renew their card.