



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Barton County Library Temporarily Closes in Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

(Lamar, MO.) – In an effort to be proactive in protecting the health and safety of our patrons, staff, and community during the COVID-19 outbreak, the Barton County Library is closing beginning Wednesday, March 18, until further notice. This includes all programs and outreach services.

The decision was difficult to make. We care deeply about being available for our community members, recognizing that the Library and its services are invaluable; however we feel this is the responsible thing to do at this time. Closings are inevitable, and the longer we delay, the less benefit is derived. We hope that this decision – and similar action being taken by other organizations – will maximize the benefits of recommended social distancing.

The Library's administrative team will continue to monitor developments and respond accordingly. Follow us on Facebook at [fb.bclib.info](https://www.facebook.com/bclib.info) and check our website at www.bclib.info for updates.

The Library will be open until 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 17, which is the last day patrons can check out materials or pick up holds. Holds will be maintained until the Library reopens.

Patrons are asked not to return books and other Library materials via our outside drop boxes during this time. Due dates will be extended and there will be no penalty as the Library will not charge fines for materials during the time period that we will be closed.

Patrons still can access the Library's digital resources, including e-books, e-magazines, downloadable audiobooks and streaming movies, and television shows, as well as online research and learning tools by visiting our website at www.bclib.info.

In the meantime, the Library is encouraging patrons to stay informed on the outbreak through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, and Barton County Health Department.

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Barton County Library's mission is to make its resources available and useful to the people of Barton County. The Library provides the community, from pre-school through maturity, with quality staff, resources, programs and services.