



March 18, 2020

As a leader and advocate for Oregon libraries, Oregon Library Association (OLA) is calling on all library administrators, governing boards, and local governments to close public, academic, tribal, and special libraries in Oregon for the foreseeable future.

OLA commends the libraries and local officials who have already made the very difficult decision to close their doors to the public.

This action we are requesting is in keeping with [the American Library Association's recommendation to close libraries](#) and Oregon Governor Brown's Executive Orders to limit gatherings and close schools.

Given that school closures place undue pressure on libraries, any that remain open would contribute to potential spread of Coronavirus. Our library staff and patrons are at risk as long as our public institutions are open. The health and safety of library workers and the communities they serve are of the utmost importance.

This is a challenging time for us, the nation, and the world as we respond to COVID-19 and the uncertainty surrounding it. We will do our best to stay on top of this quickly evolving and fluid situation and communicate with you regularly.

Sincerely,

Elaine Hirsch
Oregon Library Association President, 2019-2020