

APRIL 16, 2020



WE'RE HERE FOR YOU!

343-2975 or askalibrarian@muni.org
Online resources + virtual program info
at: anchoragelibrary.org

LIBRARY COVID-19 RESPONSE

COMMUNITY SAFETY & MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS

- The city's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is now operating out of Loussac Library and several Library staff have been redeployed to work for the EOC through the crisis (*highlighted in The Atlantic: www.theatlantic.com/notes/2020/03/public-libraries-novel-response-to-a-novel-virus/609058/*).
- Our librarians are conducting research projects for the EOC to help with the response, including ensuring that 211 call-line community resource information is accurate and up-to-date.
- Created a COVID-19 Information Center on our website with vetted information and education, and have shared updates on social media.
- Our staff have been helping at the Municipal Election Center.

EDUCATION

- Created a page on our website for families highlighting our educational resources and other high-quality free resources.
- Many Anchorage School District librarians and teachers are sharing Anchorage Public Library resources in their communications with families, as well as reaching out to us for more information, such as digital books with multiple licenses for class reading assignments.
- As of April 6, we have held 8 virtual storytimes to support early literacy with 863 views from people who have engaged and watched.

CONNECTIONS TO INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- Reallocated a portion of the materials budget to increase digital selection, including an additional \$30,000 into the Alaska Digital Library; also increased Hoopla circulations per card by two per month.
- Operating our phone help line and Ask-a-Librarian email during normal business hours to answer questions, provide research assistance, and help people with library services.
- Created Libby, Overdrive, Hoopla and Freegal tutorials to help digital newcomers get set up with online books, movies and music.
- Selecting physical materials with an eye to items that meet the needs of our public when we reopen, for example, adult nonfiction books on budgeting and dealing with grief.
- Offering weekly staff book recommendations on Instagram for different ages and genres.
- Our 800# Interlibrary Loan service has offered research assistance, educational information and distribution of materials statewide - a big help for smaller communities in rural Alaska.

