

**Suspension of In-Library Services and Closure of the Library Building  
Effective 3/13/20 at 6 pm**

Dear Patrons,

We are writing to you for the second time today.

In times of floods, fires and snowstorms, the Phoenicia Library spirit is to rally and remain open and be present throughout. At times like this, every instinct is to gather together. But today, gathering is precisely the thing that is most harmful.

This afternoon, in response to a growing number of confirmed cases, the Ulster County Board of Health has closed down all our school districts. This is unprecedented, conveying the gravity of our circumstance and the necessity for drastic action.

Fortunately, our trustees wrote a policy last year for these circumstances. Our policy states that should there be a pandemic, the library will close to protect patrons and staff. As of early this morning, we were hopeful that simply suspending our programs and meetings would be adequate. However, it is clear that officials and county medical personnel feel that complete closure of community institutions is required to prevent the spread of this illness.

**Therefore, we are suspending in-person services and closing our building for approximately two weeks starting Friday, March 13 at 6 pm. We will reopen Wednesday, April 1st.**

**You should keep all your materials (books and DVDs).** You will not be charged late fines. Please do not use our drop box. In a few days, we will send out another email with more details about the online services we can provide through this crisis. Please visit our web page and our Facebook page for frequent updates. If you need to reach us you can leave a message on library phone 688-7811 or respond to this email.

All best wishes. Remember: we're all in this together.

Liz Potter  
Director