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DATE:

March 14, 2020

SUBJECT:

Pueblo of Isleta Public Library's Reduced Services

After much deliberation, research, and communication with other libraries throughout the state including the New Mexico State Library, we at the Pueblo of Isleta (POI) Public Library have made the decision to temporarily close the library to the general public starting Monday, March 16, 2020. In addition, our hours of operation will change to 8 am to 5:30 pm. The duration of the temporary closure and altered hours will coincide with the school closures initiative implemented by New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham.

Library services affected by this temporary closure include: borrowing of library material, computer usage, fax machine, general programs, after school programs, in-house Wi-Fi usage, and comfortable lounge space used for public congregations. Patrons will not be penalized for the material they borrowed prior to this decision.

We understand that this puts a strain on the community for resource and entertainment needs as well as a safe space for youth during the day while parents are at work. However, it makes no sense for schools to be canceled for self-isolation purposes in attempt to reduce the spread of the Coronavirus, COVID-19, yet keep the library open for youth to gather in large groups for an entire day at the library. This type of action would make the library susceptible to becoming the host site for COVID-19 in the community, despite our extensive disinfecting efforts. The health and well-being of our patrons, Isleta community, POI employees, and families are far more important than books, movies and internet usage.

We would like to remind the community that we have digital and online services for the community to utilize such as Overdrive (eBook and downloadable audiobooks) and Freegal Music (commercial free music streaming and legal downloading). All you need is a POI Public Library card and a four digit password which must be set up with a library staff (this can be done over the phone, email, direct message via social media outlets). We are currently exploring additional digital services but this will take some time.

Our Wi-Fi can still be accessed outside the library. We will provide an overview map of the library which indicates our Wi-Fi range and with the password displayed on windows. Wi-Fi hours are 6 am to 11:59 pm, every day. Also, some internet and mobile carriers have provided free or increased data speeds and packages for their customers. The article may be found on cnet.com and has been posted on the library's facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/IsletaPuebloLibrary/)

Despite the physical aspect of the library being closed to the public, library staff will be working inside on unfinished library task, creating online material & services for the community, answering phone calls, email, & social media questions, and being of service to the community in other ways during this strenuous time. For example, library staff will be working on video tutorials in desktop, android, and iOS formats for

our online services which will be uploaded to the library's YouTube Channel (https://www.youtube.com/user/poiLibrary). Other services will be creating entertainment kits for the youth at least 2 – 3 times per week, which we plan on distributing along with the Isleta Elementary's "Grab & Go" lunches. Staff will also be creating online story times via Facebook LIVE and Instagram (IGTV). Then they will be uploaded to our YouTube channel for entertainment.

We hope you find these limited services helpful in your time of need as we are trying to remain of service to the community without causing additional harm. Remember we are in an unknown and fast changing time and we feel this is the best we could do with our current situation. Lastly, this service plan may be altered by the POI Administration after the POI Director's meeting on Monday, March 16, 2020 at 9:00 am.

Should you have additional concerns, questions, or possible suggestions, you may reach out to Nathaniel Lujan at (505) 869-9808 during the newly altered designated hours. Or email me at Nathaniel.Lujan@IsletaPueblo.com (new emailers must verify their email address). Another option would be calling or texting me on my work issued cell phone at (505) 697-0273.

Thank you,

Nathaniel Lujan,

Librarian / Director, Pueblo of Isleta Public Library

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