Kitsap Regional Library cancels all programs through March

Bremerton, Wash., Thursday, March 12, 2020—Beginning March 12, Kitsap Regional Library is canceling all events and meetings through March 31. Eight locations of Kitsap Regional Library will continue to be open during normal business hours. Our Poulsbo location is currently closed for a schedule renovation until June.

Kitsap Regional Library has been closely monitoring information being shared from state and county public health officials regarding the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and carefully considering the impact to the community.

“Although I understand that this decision may be a burden for some of our patrons who rely on our wonderful programs and meeting spaces, we need to take these actions out of concern for all of our communities, library patrons and employees,” Kitsap Regional Library’s Library Director Jill Jean said March 11.

In addition to canceling programs and meetings, the Library is cleaning high touch areas frequently, is providing access to hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes for areas patrons sit and work at and will be removing toys from the children’s areas.

This announcement follows the decision made last week to modify service to Home Delivery patrons. Many of the people receiving home delivery service are also those now most at risk. While it is standard during these deliveries for staff to visit with the patrons, materials will now only be taken as far as the doorstep to limit close contact.

“Through our Home Delivery service, community members with significant barriers to getting out of their home are delivered books, movies and more. For many of these patrons, these barriers can be very isolating, and they rely on the human connection that comes with the delivery of these materials,” Jean said. “It was a very hard decision to make.”

For those who are trying to do their part and want to spend a little less time in public places, you can place a hold for a book, movie or even a ukulele online and drop by and pick it up. Self-checkout stations make it easy.

“The Library has always been a place of refuge,” said Jean. “For those who are finding themselves confined to their home during this time, the Library is still here for you. Visit the Library online and explore our free digital resources. You can download eBooks, audiobooks and music or explore more than 3,500 digital magazines.”

Through KRL.org, Kitsap residents can sign up for a Library card and access thousands of downloadable materials, research databases and even ask a question or get a book recommendation from a live person.

Kitsap Regional Library will continue to review recommendations of public health officials and adjust services to provide the best possible service to the Kitsap community.
Kitsap Regional Library inspires our community to dream more, learn more, do more and be more. To meet the needs of the over 270,000 people who reside here, Kitsap Regional Library maintains nine locations, outreach services and a virtual library at KRL.org.