PRESS RELEASE

Due to health concerns surrounding the recent COVID-19 Pandemic, the North Bergen Free Public Library will be closed to the public starting on Saturday, March 14th. This precautionary measure is being taken for the safety of both our patrons and our staff. This closure will be in effect for all of next week, and library administrators will reevaluate on Friday, March 20th based on the advice of the township, school administration and health department. Staff will remain in the building while the library is closed in order to assist the general public, and will be available via phone and email. Staff will remain working their regular hours, so that library services will remain available 7 days a week, during the library’s regular functioning hours.

The library is committed to maintaining as many library functions as safely possible during this time. Library staff will assist patrons in checking out items via doorside delivery, creating and renewing library cards, accepting returned items via our book drop, answering reference questions, accessing our educational and entertainment databases, gaining access to the Internet via the library’s wifi and internet hotspots, and limited printing/photocopying/faxing of documents. The library will also be increasing our online presence, with frequent posts via social media and the library’s and town’s websites. We will be adding a ticker to the library website explaining to the public what services we will be providing, and will send information out via the library listserv.

The library will be providing online programming in lieu of our normal classes. Programming offerings will include topics such as virtual storytimes, database showcases, and book talks, among others. Patrons will be able to access online programs via our website and social media.

As part of our amnesty efforts, the library will be forgiving overdue fines for North Bergen and Guttenberg residents on North Bergen-owned items. Items must be returned at the time of fine forgiveness and amnesty does not apply to lost or damaged items.