



A MESSAGE FROM BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM DIRECTOR MARY JEAN JAKUBOWSKI

April 7, 2020

Dear Buffalo & Erie County Public Library patron:



We are experiencing unprecedented times in our community, state, and country and it is clear, given the ever-changing status of the COVID-19 pandemic, that we must all participate in protecting library patrons, staff and volunteers. The Buffalo & Erie County Public Library (B&ECPL) Board of Trustees and the 22 Boards of the member libraries that make up the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System, therefore, have each resolved to temporarily close all 37 library locations until such time that the guidance of the Governor of the State of New York supports reopening.

Decisions like these do not come easy as it means a continued, albeit temporary, loss of access to the in-person services, resources and gathering spaces the Library is known for providing to so many in our community. Our virtual library will remain open at www.BuffaloLib.org. Our staff is working remotely to maintain and expand our already rich website and provide additional access to the multitude of online resources, materials, databases and services provided digitally. In addition, libraries are conducting a wide variety of online programming through Facebook, YouTube and Zoom.

We know many of you rely on the free, high-speed Internet access provided by your library. We have, therefore, kept our free, high-speed Wi-Fi access running and while we are not in any way encouraging gathering, it is accessible around most of our buildings. The network/SSID is: BECPL2 and password is: *librarywifi*. You are welcome to use the Wi-Fi and insist you use social distancing should you choose to do so.

Don't have a library card? You can apply for a library card that will give you access to all of B&ECPL's online resources through the website at: <http://vf.buffalolib.org/vufind/OnlineSignup/Home/>. A library card number will be sent to you via e-mail.

Want to use our online resources, but are concerned you have outstanding library fines/fees/charges? No worries! You CAN still use all B&ECPL's online resources.

Many of you have materials such as books, DVD's and CD's that you checked out prior to our closing. Please be advised, due dates have been extended to May 18, 2020 on all items checked out on or after February 11, 2020.

Have a library question? Please email us at: askus@buffalolib.org.

The Buffalo & Erie County Public Library is here for you during these difficult times. Our doors may be closed, but we are and will remain virtually open. Please watch for our media releases and visit the website often for updates.

During these difficult and challenging times, we ask you please stay safe and follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

Please accept my sincerest appreciation for your continued support, patience and understanding as we continue to adjust library operations. Together, we will get through this.

Respectfully,

Mary Jean