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Maine InfoNet_COVID-19 Maine Libraries Press Release

Maine InfoNet

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****Press Release****

In response to COVID-19, most Maine libraries have made the difficult decision to close to the public during this time. **Don't forget!** There are many resources from public, academic, and school libraries that are available during these closures:

- **Story Time** – Many libraries are livestreaming story times and other content. In addition, there are fantastic online story time resources to save your voice and let a pro do the reading. There are also a variety of resources for free kids' ebooks. Follow the "Online Story Resources" link here for updated suggestions from the Maine State Library: <https://www.maine.gov/msl/libs/services/childliteracy.htm>
- **Internet Access** - Even though your library may be closed to the public, many libraries have their wifi connections available 24/7. You can drive up in your car or find a spot outside the library to get a better connection.
- **Learning Resources** - Digital Maine Library, available to anyone in Maine, has resources for community members of all ages, including students. There are newspapers, language learning, genealogy, and more here: <https://library.digitalmaine.org/>
- **Research Assistance** - We are all dealing with an overwhelming amount of information right now. Most libraries will still have librarians monitoring emails or may offer other ways to stay connected and ask for assistance finding the right information. Visit your local library page or please email Maine State Library reference at desk.reference@maine.gov and we can respond with the right answer and provide the most applicable resources.
- **More local resources** - Visit your local library's website or Facebook page to find additional local resources including downloadable ebooks and eaudiobooks, or other electronic options. Look for an opportunity to sign up for the library's newsletter if they have one.

We look forward to the time when this will be behind us and we can offer our full services to our communities once again. We hope these resources help to get you through these challenging times.

Sincerely,

Maine Library Association
Maine InfoNet
Maine State Library

