



## Memorandum

To: The Honorable Judge Richard Cortez

From: Kate P. Horan, MLS, County Librarian

Date: February 4, 2021

Subject: COVID-19 Impact on Hidalgo County Library System

Of the 13 HCLS libraries, 4 remain closed to the public: Donna Public Library, Elsa Public Library, Dr. Hector P. Garcia Memorial Library (Mercedes), and Peñitas Public Library. All libraries have staff on site, with 12 libraries providing scan, fax, and copy services. In-person public programming is still suspended. However, 10 HCLS libraries currently provide a variety of virtual programming, such as World Read Aloud Day, which featured county-wide virtual literacy events and book giveaways.

Contactless curbside delivery service is available at 10 libraries for patrons who wish to pick up reserved holds from their home library. Some libraries are offering thematic book bundles and craft kits for children, teens and adults to pick up curbside or drive-through.

The HCLS federation continues to provide the public with high quality digital e-books and e-audiobooks through the new HCLS E-Library platform, cloudLibrary at <https://hclstx.org/>. The community is encouraged to download the free cloudLibrary app from the iOS Store or Android Play Store and borrow from a collection of over 150,000 titles.

All materials checked out to our patrons are automatically renewed. Returned library materials undergo up to 7 days of quarantine in accordance with test results published by the Reopening Archives, Libraries, and Museums (REALM) research project, to mitigate COVID-19 exposure to staff and patrons. All libraries continue intensive cleaning of high touch-points and require facial coverings and hand sanitizer for staff and visitors.

The HCLS libraries continue to strive to promote and provide free library services to all residents of Hidalgo County. Patrons are encouraged to check the HCLS website often for updates and announcements of virtual programming for children, teens, and adults. Those seeking assistance with getting a library card or borrowing e-books can call their home library using the member directory at <https://hclstx.org/members/>.