Statement from Greta Southard, Executive Director of Allen County Public Library

Today has been a day of evolving information and we have held off making any decisions as the situation has changed throughout the day. Our priority has been, and continues to be, the health and safety of ACPL staff and the community we serve.

Dr. McMahon, the Allen County Health Commissioner, has been very clear that as a community, we have two priorities:

- **Our healthcare systems must stand.**
- **Social distancing is key to limiting the number of new cases and not overwhelming local healthcare resources.**

There is evidence that our community is already taking the importance of social distance very seriously. System-wide, our door counts from Wednesday and Thursday went down 50%.

**Following guidance from local, state, and federal health organizations, the Allen County Public Library is closing all of its locations to the public, and cancelling all programs, events, meeting room bookings, and outreach activities. The building closures will be effective Monday, March 16 – Saturday, April 11. ACPL locations will resume normal hours to the public on Sunday, April 12.**

**Programs, events, and room bookings will continue to be canceled until at least Monday, May 18, 2020.**

We are investigating the ability to hit pause on all holds during this closure period, so that customers will not receive notifications or lose their place in line for materials. There will also be a global extension of the due date on materials until April 13.

Staff will still be available to the public via Ask a Librarian. Our electronic resources are still available. Learn more about those resources at the library’s website.

The reality is that we will need to make adjustments as we go. The ability to adapt and be flexible will be important as we move forward.

We will continue to provide updates as the situation evolves.