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In line with statements released by the American Library Association, **FLA is using our role as a leader and advocate of Florida libraries to call on all public and academic libraries in Florida to close their doors at this time, reopening when guidance from public health officials indicates the risk from COVID-19 has significantly subsided.**

In response to the most recent recommendations from the CDC and the White House, the Florida Library Association supports all requests and efforts by library administrators, local boards, and governments, to temporarily close their facilities to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in their communities.

Furthermore, the Florida Library Association supports all efforts by library administrators to see that their staffs are fairly compensated during any such closures or disruptions of services.

While typically public libraries may invite children to come to the library in the event of an emergency school closing, this is not the best course of action when trying to curb a contagious disease. Because containment works best when all organizations participate, many libraries and other cultural organizations are deciding to close while the schools are closed. We urge our patrons and communities to check the websites of their library for updated information and resources accessible virtually. Many academic libraries are open online and continue to support students and instructors via online services.

The FLA Board of Directors is committed to supporting library workers, FLA members, and the communities we serve during these challenging times. For information about ALA resources on COVID-19, visit [www.ala.org/tools/atoz/pandemic-preparedness](http://www.ala.org/tools/atoz/pandemic-preparedness).

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eric Head". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Eric" and the last name "Head" clearly visible.

Eric Head  
President 2019-2020

*March 20, 2020*