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For immediate release

## **Elgin County Library branches remain closed during pandemic**

**COUNTY OF ELGIN** – All branches of Elgin County Library remain closed in compliance with the [provincial order](#) regarding closure of all non-essential businesses in Ontario. This means that access to physical collections such as books and magazines in any form cannot be accommodated at all ten branches for the length of the emergency order. “Our staff have received direction the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries that public access to physical collections in any form, even through curbside pickup or direct delivery, is not allowed under the provincial order. We recognize that many of our residents are missing the high quality of library service that the County provides but we are just not able to provide access under the current order and given that our library staff have been redeployed to our long-term care homes or are currently on emergency leave” said Warden Dave Mennill.

In an effort to support community members and their families during their time spent at home, Elgin County Library has been working with their partners and is proud to offer an increase in digital resources at this time to Library members. The Library is providing free access to a wide array of online services and resources for reading, education and entertainment, including e-books and e-audiobooks, e-magazines, movies, music, and more. Also, Library staff can provide residents with a virtual library card from the comfort of their home by calling (519) 631-1460 x 109 or completing the online form here: [elgincounty.ca/library/online-membership/](http://elgincounty.ca/library/online-membership/). In addition, open Wi-Fi signals at all ten branches have been extended to adjacent areas outside the buildings for those who may not have reliable Internet access at home. It is imperative that physical distancing measures be observed while accessing this service.

“While our libraries may not be considered an essential service, this does not mean that they are not important to the community. Rest assured, we will open our library branches to the public as soon as it is safe to do so as we know how much the service is missed” confirmed Warden Mennill.

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