

March BSVI Bulletin

Information on Ohio's response to COVID-19, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov, or call 1-833-427-5634 (1-833-4-ASK-ODH).

This edition of the BSVI Bulletin provides useful information and resources that may be especially helpful during the COVID-19 pandemic to people who are blind or have vision loss, their families, and others. Please feel free to share as appropriate, stay safe, and stay well.

Ohio Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled COVID-19 Closure

The following announcement comes from Will Reed, OLBPD Manager. All Cleveland Public Library locations, including the Ohio Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled (OLBPD), are closed to the public until further notice as of Friday, March 13th, to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Likewise, the State Library of Ohio will also be closed to the public for at least three weeks beginning Tuesday, March 17th. Please note that no talking books, braille, or equipment will be able to be received or mailed out during this time. If you have a computer, tablet, mobile device, or third-party player with internet capabilities, please visit the [BARD website](#) and BARD mobile app, which provides access to talking books and digital braille files. BARD applications will be processed and approved during this closure. For updates about the COVID-19 closing, or more information and links to online library services, please visit the [OLBPD home page](#). For information about the State Library, check out the [Library.ohio.gov website](https://library.ohio.gov).

Aira

During this time of remote work and social distancing, Aira can help. Here are a few ways you can use the service:

- Filing taxes
- Describing news infographics
- Assistance learning remote work tools (such as Zoom, Slack, Microsoft Teams, etc.)

- Spring cleaning/organization

Free Aira Offer for College Students

Many universities and colleges are rapidly shifting to distance learning. Some materials and software are inaccessible. Aira is offering free service for any college student for the remainder of the spring semester, ending in May 2020. If you know a student who could benefit from Aira for their distance learning needs, please email support@aira.io for more information about the program.

Coronavirus Resources for the Blind and Visually Impaired Community

The Blindy Blog has compiled a [Coronavirus Resource page](#). Feel free to bookmark and share the information, and while you're there, check out the other articles discussing tips and tricks, technology, guide dogs, and more.

Tech Tip: Zoom Cloud Meetings

Many individuals are working remotely, holding meetings virtually, or connecting with family and friends via the internet. [Zoom Cloud Meetings](#) offers accessible desktop, mobile, web applications, and telephone access that enables people who are blind or have vision loss to host or participate in virtual meetings with colleagues or friends. Jonathan Mosen, author of the book "Meet Me Accessibly – A Guide to Zoom Cloud Meetings from a Blindness Perspective," is offering his three-hour audiobook as a [free download](#). Freedom Scientific has also put together a 20-minute Zoom demonstration presentation that highlights using the platform with JAWS for Windows. [Visit this blog post](#) for more details.