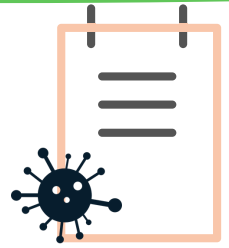




Infection Control in a Library Setting



Community and school libraries are an important community resource which can operate safely using public health measures in addition to their COVID-19 Safety Plan.

Browsing

Light browsing of books can still occur providing individuals follow hand hygiene recommendations at all times. Books which have undergone light browsing would not be required to go into quarantine. In many ways, lightly browsing books is no different from browsing shelves at the grocery store. Quarantine should be considered when books are utilized for a longer period of time, such as individual use at a table while studying.

Consideration should be given for browsing library catalogues online, accessing e-books and other virtual borrowing services.

Book Returns

Libraries are encouraged to set up an area of the building known as the quarantine or isolation zone. This quarantine area can be made of shelving, totes, multiple book carts or designated tables. They should be clearly labelled with dates of when items went into quarantine and when they are safe to go back into circulation.

Libraries should store all returned materials to a dedicated space for at least 72 hours and prevent handling the materials during that period. Staff handling returned materials should always follow hand hygiene practices and avoid touching the face.

General Recommendations

- All individuals should self screen for symptoms of COVID-19.
- Hand hygiene, cough and sneeze etiquette, mask use and physical distancing should be followed.
- Consider installing barriers or floor markers in areas where individuals tend to congregate (e.g., reception, computer areas)
- Seating areas should be 2 meters apart, extra chairs should be removed to encourage physical distancing.
- Cleaning and disinfecting regimes should be increased.
- Traffic flow into, throughout and leaving the library should be directed.
- Post signage in highly visible locations or displaying messages on digital screens.
- Computers used by individuals should be cleaned and disinfected between each use. Consider assigning computer time to an individual and scheduling cleaning time between users.
- Place hand sanitizer stations and sanitizing wipes at each computer. Provide lined waste disposal options throughout facility.

Librarianship: COVID-19 Response and Recovery: Resources for Libraries. Retrieved from <https://librarianship.ca/features/covid-19-resources/#Materials-Handling>