

## Sanitation measures (dated 3/31/2020)

This WORKING document was assembled at the request of members of Indiana Library Federation. This compilation aims to excerpt key ideas from many sources, in order to save valuable time. Information includes full links in case links break AND to show the credible source for replicating search. Additional information will be posted as available or suggested at [www.ilfonline.org/page/covid-19](http://www.ilfonline.org/page/covid-19). [Email ILF](mailto:ilf@ilfonline.org) with specific sourced suggestions.

**IMLS Webinar with CDC held 3/30/2020** – This is THE guidance on safe collection handling of library materials and guidance about social distancing in facilities. <https://www.ims.gov/webinars/mitigating-covid-19-when-managing-paper-based-circulating-and-other-types-collections> The webinar is presented factually and should relieve some concerns from previously circulated information on list. They suggest 24-hour quarantine on materials if not wiped down is sufficient. They express more concern about frequently touched surfaces, such as doorknobs, faucet handles, etc. and discuss appropriate sanitation measures for frequently touches surfaces. They also discuss social distance seating.

CDC staff refer to three specific docs as guidance for libraries, as the guidance for community organizations, businesses, and mass gatherings apply:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/index.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/businesses-employers.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/mass-gatherings-ready-for-covid-19.html>

**Excerpts from [CDC guidance for employers](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html)**, with full link at [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fspecific-groups%2Fguidance-business-response.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fspecific-groups%2Fguidance-business-response.html)

- Clean AND disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces such as workstations, keyboards, telephones, handrails, and doorknobs. Dirty surfaces can be cleaned with soap and water prior to disinfection. To disinfect, use [products that meet EPA's criteria for use against SARS-CoV-2](https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2)[external icon](#), the cause of COVID-19, and are appropriate for the surface. Full link is here: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>

- Avoid using other employees' phones, desks, offices, or other work tools and equipment, when possible. If necessary, clean and disinfect them before and after use.

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## How long can the Virus can live?

This article published 3/20/20 in Johns Hopkins University Magazine, <https://hub.jhu.edu/2020/03/20/sars-cov-2-survive-on-surfaces/>, discussed recent research published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* (3/17/2020 available at <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMc2004973>).

Excerpts of directly quoted passages from the JHU Magazine are provided for your convenience.

"SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, can live in the air and on surfaces between several hours and several days. The study found that the virus is viable for up to 72 hours on plastics, 48 hours on stainless steel, 24 hours on cardboard, and 4 hours on copper. It is also detectable in the air for three hours."

Two important notes related to news coverage

- "What's getting a lot of press and is presented out of context is that the virus can last on plastic for 72 hours—which sounds really scary. But what's more important is the amount of the virus that remains. It's less than 0.1% of the starting virus material. Infection is theoretically possible but unlikely at the levels remaining after a few days."
- "While the *New England Journal of Medicine* study found that the COVID virus can be detected in the air for 3 hours, in nature, respiratory droplets sink to the ground faster than the aerosols produced in this study. The experimental aerosols used in labs are smaller than what comes out of a cough or sneeze, so they remain in the air at face-level longer than heavier particles would in nature."

The article concludes the interview with a researcher with "You are more likely to catch the infection through the air if you are next to someone infected than off of a surface. Cleaning surfaces with disinfectant or soap is very effective because once the oily surface coat of the virus is disabled, there is no way the virus can infect a host cell. However, there cannot be an overabundance of caution. Nothing like this has ever happened before."

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## Disinfecting Circulating Books

Excerpted from document prepared by Northeast Document Conservation Center, Andover MA, as linked by ALA at [http://www.ala.org/tools/sites/ala.org.tools/files/content/NEDCC%20recommendations%20for%20disinfecting%20books\\_Mar2020-converted.pdf](http://www.ala.org/tools/sites/ala.org.tools/files/content/NEDCC%20recommendations%20for%20disinfecting%20books_Mar2020-converted.pdf).

The Northeast Document Conservation Center recommends a 24 to 48-hour quarantine of returned books as the safest and most effective way to disinfect

them. The NDCC recommends quarantine in separate quarantine space or in bags. They refute the concepts of using liquid disinfectants and UV rays to disinfect.

The referenced research study was in preprint at the time of this document. The study shows COVID-19 will last on cardboard for 24 hours. **The document notes the article was NOT YET PEER REVIEWED at time of publishing and should not be used for clinical guidance.**

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