

Harlan Pruden  
Educator, Chee Mamuk, Indigenous Program  
Member, BCCDC COVID-19 Knowledge Translation Needs Identification and Prioritization  
Working Group  
BC Center for Disease Control, Clinical Prevention Services

Dear Harlan Pruden,

Thank you for offering to hear the public library sector's remaining questions when looking at how to safely restart services and open our doors. We are looking to the BCCDC to provide specific guidance regarding two outstanding questions.

I have outlined the questions below, what our current thinking is re: approaches, as well as the available research for question #1.

**1. What processes should BC public libraries put in place to prevent transmission through loaned materials, such as quarantines or cleaning?**

- a. Context: Libraries lend print books which may have paper or laminated/ plastic-type coverings, as well as various discs (CD, DVD etc) in plastic cases.
- b. Current thinking: Libraries are currently considering a 72 hour quarantine based on the virus life on plastic surfaces, and cleaning laminated surfaces where quarantine is not possible. Cleaning is not preferred due to the volume, as millions of books circulate through library systems annually.
- c. Research we have identified includes:
  - i. (IMLS study in progress, existing health study): Aerosol and Surface Stability of SARS-CoV-2 as Compared with SARS-CoV-1. N Engl J Med. 2020 Apr 16;382(16):1564-1567. doi: 10.1056/NEJMc2004973. Epub 2020 Mar 17. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/32182409>
  - ii. (Research in progress): COVID-19 Research Partnership to Inform Safe Handling of Collections, Reopening Practices for Libraries, Museums, <https://www.ims.gov/news/covid-19-research-partnership-inform-safe-handling-collections-reopening-practices-libraries>

**2. What cleaning protocols or protective actions are appropriate for shared computers?**

- a. Context: Shared public computers in libraries are a critical need for internet access in many communities.
- b. Current thinking: We are currently considering spacing between computers, plexiglass between stations, keyboard and mouse covers to facilitate cleaning, and providing patrons with cleaning spray to wipe computers before or after use.

Thank you for your time and for sharing any guidance the BCCDC might have surrounding these two outstanding questions.

Sincerely,

Scott Hargrove, Chair  
Association of BC Public Library Directors

