

Quarantining Library Materials | Recommended Best Practices by State



Massachusetts

EFFECTIVE: March 1, 2021

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/safety-standards-and-checklist-libraries#cleaning-and-disinfecting->

“Once returned or handled by patrons, remove books from service for 24 hours (before it can be returned by workers and checked out by another patron).”



Virginia

EFFECTIVE: Feb. 24, 2021

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/182/2021/02/VDH-Guidelines-for-Libraries.pdf>

“Materials that have been touched by a patron on site or returned to the library after being checked out are returned to one or more specific receptacles. Materials that would not be damaged by cleaning (such as DVD cases and plastic-covered books) may be wiped with a disposable disinfecting cloth before placing them back into circulation. Alternatively, those materials, as well as any that cannot be exposed to moisture, could be kept in the receptacle for 24 hours before handling.”



Wisconsin

EFFECTIVE: Oct. 12, 2020

<https://dpi.wi.gov/wilibrariesforeveryone/recommended-materials-quarantine-time-reduced>

“Upon review of the guidance provided by the State Library of Oregon, advice from the experts at the Oregon Health Authority, and review of the REALM test results, Wisconsin DHS agreed with the Oregon Health Authority’s interpretation that a 24-hour quarantine time would be sufficient as a precautionary measure.”



Maine

EFFECTIVE: Oct. 7, 2020

https://www.maine.gov/msl/libs/services/documents/FinalQuarantineBestPractices_October7_2020wCover.pdf

“All items returned from patrons should be quarantined for 72 hours before they are re-shelved. Note: The Maine State Library is using a 72-hour quarantine as an agreed upon standard at this time. This has been our guidance, and additionally, represents a midpoint of national practices of 24 hours to 7 days.”

“The Maine State Library believes that casual touching of books in the collection presents a low possibility of infection and is comfortable with libraries determining their own policy around quarantine in these circumstances.”



Oregon

EFFECTIVE: Oct. 5, 2020

https://libguides.osl.state.or.us/ld.php?content_id=59884150

“We considered the testing results, the [commentary in The Lancet](#), and some of the studies cited therein and came to the conclusion that an overnight quarantine period of materials is likely sufficient and 24 hours is even more precautionary. This would be ideally combined with advice to library workers to wash hands with soap and water regularly especially if they are prone to touching their faces. For this conclusion, we accounted for almost complete virus loss of viability within 1-6 days in the REALM studies despite the high amounts of viable virus used that are not reflective of most real-life scenarios. With that in mind, when considering the relatively low amount of virus transferred to a surface, how much virus becomes nonviable within a day, how much the next person picks up, and how often they touch eye/nose/mouth, our conclusion of quarantine between overnight and 24 hours is reasonable.”