COVID-19: Safety Tips for Reopening Your Library

May 12, 2020

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1:00 p.m. CT
12:00 p.m. MT
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12:00 p.m. PT

Presenter
Dr. Dipesh Navsaria
Associate Professor of Pediatrics,
University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health
dipesh@navsaria.com

Moderator
Liz Bowie
Marketing Content Manager,
Demco, Inc.
lizb@demco.com

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COVID–19 & Libraries

Dipesh Navsaria, MPH, MSLIS, MD
University of Wisconsin School of Medicine & Public Health

Twitter: @navsaria  •  Facebook: @DrLibrarian  •  www.navsaria.com
Opening Thoughts

Nothing I say overrides the CDC, or state and local health authorities.
Really.

There’s a lot we know.
There’s also a lot we don’t know.
I need everyone to be comfortable with some level of uncertainty, and lean into it.

What we know is changing very quickly.
Opening Thoughts

Stick to well-vetted, reputable sources. Please don’t chase the bright, shiny object of news *du jour*.

No human activity of any kind is ever 100% safe.

Calm, caring, and confident comprehension *and* compassion for everyone around you is going to take us all a long, long way.
Our Nation Needs Your Talents.

Dante and Virgin in Hell by Eugène Delacroix (1798–1863)
SARS-CoV-2 / COVID-19

Big Concepts to Know

SARS-CoV-2 is a highly infectious respiratory virus.

It kills more people than most other respiratory viruses.

It spreads via:
- Physical contact with contaminated/infected people...
- The surfaces they touch (fomites)
- ...and droplets from infected people coughing or sneezing.
Those viral particles need to enter you via your eyes, nose, or mouth.

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(I think you get the point.)
People may be infected (and therefore contagious) for several days before having symptoms.

They may not develop symptoms at all.

The symptoms (annoyingly) are really not very specific and vary greatly in intensity:

- Fever
- Cough
- Chest Tightness
- Etc.
SARS-CoV-2 / COVID-19

Prevention: The **NUMBER ONE** thing.

Properly-funded, functional, well-heeded Public Health System.

- Quarantine
- Self-Isolation
- Social Distancing
- Avoid Touching Face
- Hand Washing
- Face Masks
- Gloves

**Best**

**Worst**
Patrons

Getting in, getting out, and so on...

Managing numbers — how many, for how long?
Temperature screenings
Masks?
Non-compliance

Staged reopening?
Sneeze guards?  Masks?  Gloves?
Hand sanitizer?  (Yes, please.)
Handling materials?
Books!
What do we do with them?

Viral viability on books.
Quarantine materials?
Cleaning processes?
UV Light?
“May I Take Your Library Order?”
Curbside pickup, delivery, and so forth

How can we best handle curbside pickup?
Safe pickup and delivery to homebound patrons.
Cleaning everything else
How do we clean...well, everything?

CDC Guidance on Cleaning and Disinfecting

Computers? Makerspace materials? Bathrooms?

Rearrange furniture to accommodate social distancing? (Yes.)
Germs.
(and the children they rode in on.)

Children will touch many things.
Children will touch their faces.
Children will touch each other.

“How can we socially distance a class of young children in a small space?”
“You don’t.”
Special populations.
Outreach to the young and old, homeless populations.

Health screenings of staff
Proper protective equipment (a mask, really.)
Social distancing with advance messaging to the location.

Homeless populations — collaborate with local authorities.
Staff.
They need your kindness and understanding as well.

OSHA’s Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19

Hear them out.
Be understanding and as kind as possible.
Be flexible.
And talk to HR with those goals in mind.
Nothing I say overrides the CDC, or state and local health authorities. Really.

There’s a lot we know. There’s also a lot we don’t know. I need everyone to be comfortable with some level of uncertainty, and lean into it.

What we know is changing very quickly, and probably changed already since you first saw this slide.
Closing Thoughts
(that should look familiar)

Stick to well-vetted, reputable sources. Please don’t chase the bright, shiny object of news *du jour*. And please help your patrons learn how to do that.

No human activity of any kind is ever 100% safe.

Calm, caring, and confident comprehension *and* compassion for everyone around you is going to take us all a long, long way.
We're all in this together.

This, ultimately, is love. Love for our fellow humans that we may not know, nor ever meet. Love that we care for their well-being, their existence and their contribution to our society. It makes me happy to see that. These threats do not single out political affiliation, race, ethnicity, sex, religion or immigration status. They are human-endangering, and require a human-protecting response. When we protect all, we PROTECT ALL.
Ramblings


https://madison.com/ct/opinion/column/dr-dipesh-navsaria-an-election-day-mask-or-masque/article_96c173c3-661b-5d4b-b8dc-ab6674be9f36.html

Thank You for Attending!

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