

## COVID-19

### Exposure Prevention, Preparedness and Response Plan

June 7, 2020

The St. Charles District Library takes the health and safety of employees very seriously and will remain vigilant in efforts to mitigate workplace exposure to the COVID-19 virus. This plan was developed in accordance with Governor Whitmer's Executive Order 2020-69, The U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19 (OSHA 3390-03-2020) and recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). It is also acknowledged that the Covid-19 Pandemic is an evolving situation as more is learned about the virus. As a result, these guidelines are subject to change and modification pursuant to legal requirements. The provisions of this Exposure Prevention, Preparedness and Response Plan shall apply to all employees and any person entering or providing services to the library. The plan will remain in effect until rescinded by the Library Board.

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. It is considered highly contagious. To mitigate the impact of Covid-19, provisions have been put in place to reduce exposure to employees and citizens. It is important to understand how Covid-19 spreads. The virus is thought to spread mainly from person to person including:

- ❖ Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about six (6) feet);
- ❖ Through respiratory droplets produced when an infect person coughs or sneezes;
- ❖ It may also be possible to contract Covid-19 by touching a surface or object that has Covid-19 on it and then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes.

**Responsibilities of Library Director:** It is the responsibility of the library director to be knowledgeable of the library's Covid-19 Exposure Prevention, Preparedness and Response Plan; to implement the plan within the library; to be ware of the specific risk of employees based on their job responsibilities and to implement measures to mitigate that risk; and to be available to answer questions and concerns from employees. It is expected that the director shall set a good example and follow this Plan at all times. This includes practicing good personal hygiene and job site safety practices to prevent the spread of the virus.

**Responsibilities of Employees:** It is a condition of employment for all employees to comply with the requirements of the Library's Covid-19 Exposure Prevention, Preparedness and Response Plan. As set out in this plan, the library has instituted various housekeeping and social distancing, requirements for personal protection equipment, and other best practices to reduce exposure to Covid-19. Employees are required to comply with the following provisions:

- ❖ Remain home if sick and notify director accordingly. Employees exhibiting signs of illness will be sent home.
- ❖ Report to the director if they are experiencing any signs or symptoms of Covid-19 or if a member of their household has been diagnosed with Covid-19. Signs and symptoms of Covid-19 include coughing, fever, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, chills, body aches, sore throat, headache, diarrhea, nausea/vomiting, loss of sense of smell or taste, and profound fatigue.
- ❖ Employees must practice good hygiene which includes frequently washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. When soap and water is not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol content.
- ❖ Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❖ Follow appropriate respiratory etiquette which includes covering your nose and mouth with a tissue or the inside of your elbow when you cough or sneeze. Throw used tissues in the trash and immediately wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol.
- ❖ Whenever possible and unless required by your job, avoid close contact with people that are sick.
- ❖ Follow the social distancing and personal protection equipment guidelines contained in this plan.
- ❖ Regularly clean and maintain personal protective equipment provided to employees by the library.
- ❖ Regularly clean and sanitize work areas, computers and equipment as provide for in this plan.

**Workplace Protective Measures:** The following measures shall be implemented at the library and adhered to by all employees.

- ❖ Any employee showing symptoms of Covid-19 will be asked to leave the workplace and will not be allowed to return until symptom free for a minimum of three consecutive days or until the employee can document that they are experiencing a non-contagious medical condition.
- ❖ If needed, the library may implement a Covid-19 screening process which may include temperature checks and questions about any symptom's employees are experiencing and potential contact with any persons diagnosed with Covid-19.
- ❖ Whenever possible, library business shall be conducted electronically via e-mail, phone or through meeting platforms such as Zoom or WebEx. If an in-personal meeting is required, participants must observe social distancing measures and the meeting room must be sanitized at the conclusion of the meeting.
- ❖ Employees must avoid physical contact with others and shall direct others, including co-workers and patrons, to maintain social distancing standards where possible.
- ❖ Employees shall stagger breaks and lunches. Social distancing shall be observed during lunches and breaks.
- ❖ Employees shall be required to wear face masks in public spaces and in areas where social distancing is not possible. For purposes of this policy, public spaces shall mean any area in which the public has frequent access or any space in which social distancing cannot be achieved. Social distancing shall be defined as maintaining a distance of at least six (6) feet between parties. Private offices and work areas are not considered public spaces unless other individuals enter the office and social distancing cannot be achieved.
- ❖ Currently, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) discourages all non-essential international travel and recommends a 14-day self-quarantine for all international travelers. In accordance with this guidance from the CDC, the Library will require all employees who travel internationally to self-quarantine for 14 days upon return to Michigan. The Library also reserves the right to require employees who travel to high risk States in the United States to self-quarantine for 14 days upon return to Michigan. The Library will utilize Covid Act Now, <https://covidactnow.org/>, and/or any other resources available to it, to

make decisions regarding domestic travel-related quarantine and workplace safety.

### **Employee illness or Exposure to Covid-19**

- ❖ **Illness:** Employees that are ill are *required* to stay home and seek appropriate medical attention. Said employees must notify their supervisor as soon as possible of the illness via phone or text message. ***Employees report to work ill shall be sent home.*** Before return to work, employees with Covid-19 must be symptom free for a least (3) consecutive days or be cleared to return to work by their physician.
  
- ❖ **Notification of Exposure:** The Director will notify employees of any known exposure to Covid-19. Employees are required to comply with any quarantine recommends after being exposed to the pandemic event.
  
- ❖ **Exposure & Quarantine:** Employees that have exposed to an infected or quarantined individual or advised by their medical provider to stay home and self-quarantine shall do so. Before returning to work after a quarantine, employees will be required to obtain clearance to return to work by their medical provider.

**Social Distancing:** Social distance shall be observed at all times at; the library until otherwise determined by the County, State or Federal government. Social distancing requires that each employee:

- ❖ Maintain a distance of at least six (6) feet from other people;
  
- ❖ Do not gather in groups;
  
- ❖ Stay in assigned work area and within individual workspaces as much as possible except when entering/leaving the building, using restrooms, break rooms or to complete a job task;
  
- ❖ Refrain from traveling through the work areas of other employees;
  
- ❖ No attending or hosting of in-person meetings.

**Personal Protective Equipment & Work Practice Controls:** To mitigate the exposure risk to Covid-19, the library will provide the following personal protective equipment. The specifications of this equipment shall be determined by the nature of the job performed.

- ❖ Gloves: If gloves are not typically required for a task, then any type of glove is acceptable, including latex or vinyl gloves. Employees should NOT share gloves.
- ❖ Face masks: Employees will be provided with reusable washable face masks. Employees shall be required to wear face masks in public spaces and in areas where social distancing is not possible. Employees who must enter non-public spaces such as a private office or work space of other employees will be required to wear face masks. For purposes of this policy, public spaces shall mean any area in which the public has frequent access or any space in which social distancing cannot be achieved. Social distancing shall be defined as maintaining a distance of at least six (6) feet between parties. Private offices and work areas are not considered public space unless other individuals enter the office and social distancing cannot be achieved.

**Workplace modifications:** All work sites must be evaluated to determine risk exposure and modifications that should be implemented to mitigate this risk. These modifications may include:

- ❖ Installation of barriers/sneeze guards at customer service counters
- ❖ Removal of all publications, information, fliers, etc., in public areas;
- ❖ Removal of furniture from lobbies and waiting areas;
- ❖ Installation of signage to direct the public on social distancing requirements, hand sanitizing stations, etc.
- ❖ Restricting of work areas, work shifts, and/or work tasks to ensure social distancing measures are possible.

**Workplace cleaning & disinfecting:** The library, including common areas, will be properly cleaned and sanitized prior to reintroducing staff to the facility. The library will provide cleaning and sanitizing products to use to fulfill employee responsibilities as described below.

All common areas will be cleaned and sanitized on a regular basis utilizing products identified by OSHA & the CDC as effective for eliminating Covid-19. Common areas include, but are not limited to the follows:

- doors
- doorknobs, push bars, handles, light switches
- drinking fountain
- restrooms
- employee breakroom to include microwave, refrigerator, table & chairs
- plexiglass barrier/sneeze guards
- countertops
- shared office equipment such as copiers

**Employee cleaning & sanitizing responsibilities:** Employees shall be responsible for cleaning and sanitizing their personal work areas as per the following:

- ❖ Clean personal work spaces on a regular basis. Specifically, the following surface areas should be cleaned at least daily and more frequently if shared:
  - Phone
  - Computer keyboard & mouse
  - Desk surface and drawers
  - Chairs
- ❖ Avoid using other employee's supplies, equipment, phones, etc.,. If it is necessary to share equipment, clean before and after each use.
- ❖ Clean common areas after each use. For example, wipe down counter after servicing a customer, tables & chairs, etc.,
- ❖ When using copy machine, wipe down before and after each use.
- ❖ If eating in break room, wipe down ALL surfaces used (i.e., table, chair backings, microwave, microwave handle, countertop, sink faucets.)

**Cleaning and disinfecting if someone is Symptomatic:** If an employee has developed symptoms of Covid-19, the areas used by the employee must be cleaned and disinfected prior to being used again. Access to the area(s) should be closed off until the disinfecting has been completed. Clean and disinfect all areas used by the symptomatic person including offices, restrooms, common areas, shared electronic equipment, etc.

**Reintroduction of employee and the public into library facilities:** The director shall determine when employees return to the worksite and when the library is reopened to the public. It is anticipated that the return to work and public access to the library will be achieved in stages based on State and Federal mandates and the ability to achieve social distancing requirements.

Prior to employees returning to work, any necessary measures to reduce risk exposure shall be implemented. Prior to commencing work, employees returning to work, shall clean and sanitize all work areas and equipment. Employees will be advised of mandatory social distancing practices, use of personal protection equipment, and other measures implemented to reduce risk exposure. These measures may include staggered shifts, staggered breaks, and lunches, continuation of remote work arrangements, and other strategies to limit the number of employees working together.

Before allowing access to the public, the library shall implement the following measures:

- ❖ Post signage with social distancing requirements and directions including the required to wear masks.
- ❖ Provide social distancing markings at counters and service areas.
- ❖ Installation of barriers at counters and service areas.

Once the library is reopened to the public, face masks will be required to enter as long as social distancing measures are required. In addition, at the Director's discretion, the following measures may also be required:

- ❖ Screening of visitors through observation of Covid-19 symptoms. All concerns regarding symptomatic visitors or unsafe behavior shall be reported to the Director.
- ❖ Requiring temperature checks of visitors entering the facility.
- ❖ Limiting/regulating the number of visitors permitted to enter. The number of individuals permitted to enter could change periodically based upon the incidents of Covid-19 in the community and on changes in recommended practices.

**On-site Meetings:** Whenever possible, library business shall be conducted via e-mail, phone and electronic meeting platforms. When on-site meetings are required, social distancing measures shall be strictly enforced. The number of persons allowed at an on-site meeting shall be determined by State social distancing measures in effect at the time of the meeting. Meeting sites shall be cleaned and sanitized before and after the meeting and hand sanitizer shall be made available to all in attendance.

**Offsite Meetings & Business Travel:** Unless specifically authorized by the Director, no off-site meetings or business travel shall be allowed while this Plan is required. When offsite meetings and business travel are deemed necessary, the employee shall observe social distancing measures.

This Exposure Prevention, Preparedness and Response Plan will be provided to all employees via e-mail prior to return work and will be available on the library's website. Any questions regarding any provisions of the plan should be directed to the Director.