

Participant number: 81 (at highest, including four state library staff members)

Recording available: <https://libguides.osl.state.or.us/coronavirus/meetups>

URL from Governor's site on re-opening: <https://govstatus.egov.com/or-covid-19/>

<https://libguides.osl.state.or.us/coronavirus/policies> has the draft library guidelines.

Jennifer Patterson's overview/summary: Jennifer has been working with Alyssa Chatterjee from the Governor's Office. She is the State Library's policy advisor as well as for other education type state agencies; Jennifer expressed concern about the unique aspects of library services that were not addressed and it was suggested that a sector guidance document could be submitted for consideration after gathering feedback from stakeholders. The current draft used retail as a model because it had enough similarity for libraries. Taking feedback and will submit a draft to the Governor and OHA for review. Meeting with Alyssa tomorrow to determine next steps. Jennifer will let the community know about the timeline for getting guidance finalized.

Context added to draft (shared during meeting): "Libraries" haven't really been part of the larger advisories so libraries have relied on local jurisdictions and policies in addition to general guidance for individuals and workplaces.

Still in the same situation as re-opening phases are being planned and implemented. Each library will be making decisions based on local health advisories, local jurisdictions, and policies.

This document is for high-level guidance for libraries where decisions are being made around physical buildings opening to be incorporated into local plans, not as the plan itself.

The Governor's plans for Phase 2 and 3 details have not yet been determined even as libraries may have plans for multiple phases.

Jennifer has received comments and suggestions via email already.

This is not meant to say that libraries must open during phase 1.

(Document shared by Jennifer, including updates already made)

Jennifer is seeking additional advice from the Department of Justice about legality of requiring facemasks when in the library. This is also an issue for state agency public buildings.

Question about protecting vulnerable patrons and staff with facemasks?

State Library: Keep in mind that in Phase 1 vulnerable populations are still encouraged to stay at home.

What about lip-reading patrons? There are lip-reading masks available.(addressed below)

How many people per square foot?

Comment from chat: the most conservative estimate I've found is 5 people/1000 sq ft. that's what we're planning to use. Also: I recently looked at this FEMA site

https://www.usfa.fema.gov/coronavirus/planning_response/occupancy_social_distancing.html

somewhat helpful for determining square footage for physical/social distancing

From Crook County attorney:

There's no clear guidance within any of the executive orders or OHA directives that I've found. If we were a private business the answer would be Yes, and there are special rules for buildings like the Jail. For other County facilities, I suspect the answer is still yes, but finding a definitive answer may take some digging.

[public health director]'s right about both setting an example, and the possibility that there may be a future sudden dramatic local outbreak. On the other hand, the County may face some problems if it requires masks but doesn't provide them itself.

However, requiring patrons could cause problematic interactions between staff and patrons. The State Library will do its best to support libraries with resources to help address these situations. Best advice for now is to clearly communicate about why policy is in place and point to [OHA guidance](#). Messages that emphasize efforts to protect the local community may also help..

Comment: Re: the question of whether or not public places can require masks ... I have seen this situation compared to smoking and how public places were often the first to ban smoking... back in the day. Not saying I completely agree, just found it interesting.

I would like to offer computer courses for groups of 8 people and under. Is that my call locally?

In some communities it could be that this will work as long as social distancing requirements are observed and local health authorities say it's okay. Similarly for outdoor programs.

I would really like to see materials handling guidelines. In a consortium of libraries with varied forms of governance, having a single source for guidance would be really helpful.

State Library: We're still primarily waiting for the results from the IMLS study which hopefully will be available by the time this guidance document is finalized. If not, the State Library staff have gathered some best practices advice and will point to this as a resource.

Comment: I understand that the resources exist. It is just frustrating when different people pick different sources as their standard.

Comment: should this guidance include or recognize a library's unique role of providing accurate data and information from reliable sources in this time of infodemic?

In terms of "touching things" like courtesy phones, drinking fountains, and office tools like staplers, is there general guidance elsewhere that is linked? And does that extend to folks who are browsing and touching books that they do not take away from the shelf?

I don't need this question answered now, just putting it out there for consideration. Regarding masks, if we had the option of curbside pick up or being required to wear masks to enter the library would that address the concern of legality of requiring?

Comments:

We are going to put out carts and signs saying if you touch a book, please put it on the cart...(and don't take it with you)

La Grande is tentatively planning to require masks and will have a supply of disposable masks available for those who don't have one.

Is it within the scope of this document to address logging visitors for contact tracing and how that is in opposition to library privacy practices?

State Library Guidance to the retail sector did not include anything about contact tracing; Jennifer mentioned to Governor's staff that contact tracing is in direct contrast to library privacy practices, etc. Will try to determine if more guidance can be provided.

How much can we have people self regulate? If we provide wipes/hand sanitizer throughout the building and request they wipe everything they use before use? We will be having staff wipe down but is there any way we can comfortably ask people to wipe their own? Kind of like wipes for shopping carts?

But is that kind of requirement allowed in a public facility? Can I say you must wash your hands before using a library...

Providing suggestions for cleaning resources on the Library Guide would certainly be welcomed

Could folks share the name of your vendor for disposable masks? I haven't searched in depth yet and am not sure if I'll be overwhelmed with choices, many of which I suspect may be of questionable quality...TY

Comments:

If you are a member of ORPIN/DAS, there are vendors under state contract who sell PPE. Special districts can belong and it is worthwhile.

I have been purchasing disposable masks through our janitorial supply company for about 1/3 the cost of Amazon's. Turn around time is very similar. (Walter E Nelson)

I've ordered and received masks from net32.com, a dental supply company. we have an amazon business prime account and they have them in stock as of yesterday

Something to possibly include in the guidance document:

advice on how to conduct technology reference would be helpful (e.g. not touching patrons' devices, etc.)

Yes, want recommendations regarding helping patrons when we have to keep a six foot distance so reference advisory etc. will be tricky.

For mobile devices of a patron - I have been thinking about purchasing some styluses for those devices that would work with

styluses for touch screens like self checks?

Yes - and also for touching someone else's tech device. Like an iPad

This is a special library question, but is anyone thinking about limiting length of time for research visits?

Comments: We are reducing computer time from 1 1/2 hours to 30 minutes per session

When do you think it will be feasible/safe to resume home deliveries for patrons with mobility issues?
That can't meet me at the door?

State Library: Should not be interacting with vulnerable populations during Phase 1; remember to use your local health officials for advice / guidance.

Other Comments: I do meals on wheels - we leave at door

One possibility for delivering to those with mobility issues--place items directly in their trunk.

We have curtailed any deliveries to care centers until we feel it is way more safe to do so. They are currently closed to visitors anyway.

Does the plan directly address employees who have underlying conditions that make them more vulnerable - what are their work options (requiring them to come into work or working from home?)

State Library: Library specific guidance does not exist but look at the [employer guidance document](#) supplied by the Governor's website

Other Comments: That is super tricky, I have a lot of staff who could fit the vulnerable population but I have zero options for them to work from home. I am just trying to make accommodations where possible but some of them have their job tasks requiring them to work the front desk etc.

Are there (or will there be) specific guidelines for schools that will differ from retail guidelines? Has there been discussion of considering aligning library guidelines with guidelines for educational facilities?

State Library waiting to see the guidance for child care and summer camps and may incorporate some of that guidance into library document

not all library staff work (or work primarily) in the public facing areas of the library and thus will have minimal interactions (ex. tech services) - should they still be strictly following all these guidelines as well?

State Library: Libraries should follow the general guidelines provided for employers with staff in the building, etc.

Other Comments: <https://osha.oregon.gov/Pages/re/covid-19.aspx#empqa> might be helpful to review

I'm making sure my staff are safe but at some point it would be a question of whether to reopen at all ever. We have had few cases in our area and none hospitalized. I am trying to proceed cautiously with timing of course.

I have a slightly high-level question about guidelines - what does that mean legally? I am assuming some of this would be governed by OSHA and etc. But in a general sense, is this literally just guidance?

State Library: To be confirmed with the Governor's Office; the current document has "Required" and "To Consider" sections. We're trying to provide guidance because libraries aren't specifically called out but need more clarification about how legally binding it is.

Academic library environment / hearing impaired; do microphones carry through facemasks, for examples? What are other accessibility issues that need to be considered when facemasks are used? Face-shields could be used but are expensive and how can they be properly sanitized for re-use?

Comments:

I saw a lady in the store with one of those microphones on the neck that I saw people using in the schools. I wondered if it was to allow us to hear her or so she could hear better.

The dental supply catalog also had those and some libraries are making them with their 3d printers

Some people are also allergic to face masks, we should be aware of that accommodation

I was told some people have an issue with something covering both their nose and mouth, I forget what it is called or whether it was true but it sounded like a real disorder

Did you address the question about handling money/cash? Is that included (or presumed) in guidelines? (I apologize, haven't read fully)

Not included in the library draft document nor in the retail guidelines.

FWIW, our public health director was pretty leery about allowing browsing during phase 1. She recommended that we not allow that until later phases.

One thing not mentioned here, what about library volunteers? I've been reluctant to bring back my volunteers especially since most are older

State Library: Probably best to apply the same level of support that you give staff; but some may not be bringing back volunteers at all in Phase 1. State Library Volunteer Coordinator is also looking at this for the State Library's volunteers; we'll pull together some resources but it won't necessarily be in the guidance document (but in our LibGuide)

Other comments: We don't plan to bring back library volunteers for a while. When we do, it likely will be when the building is closed to the public. We utilize volunteers to check in materials and shelve.

I'm not allowing volunteers back into the Molalla Library until much later in this process. Mine are also mostly high risk.

I am very reluctant to bring back volunteers because it is harder to hold them accountable and I worry about that from a liability standpoint.

Hmmmm...it doesn't seem quite the same in this case...I have been looking at that quite a bit for all nonprofits and looking for guidance from the state etc.

nor do I provide them benefits or other protection

our volunteers are covered under our city insurance

We do provide Workers comp so that could be an issue

State Library: In many cases, we will continue to recommend that you consult with your local health authorities for guidance / advice.