

VTLIB Meetup Chat Links

What's Next Meetup 3/25/21

- ACCD Page: <https://accd.vermont.gov/news/update-new-work-safe-additions-be-smart-stay-safe-order>
 - Sector Specific Guidance: <https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/business/stay-home-stay-safe-sector-specific-guidance>
 - Contact Tracing Language: All businesses and organizations that serve the public and host organized non-essential activities shall maintain an easily accessible, legible log of all employees, customers, members and guests and their contact information, including name, address, phone number and email address for 30 days in the event contact tracing is required by VDH. For the sake of clarity, this requirement applies to all employees and all guests in every party.
 - ALA resource related to keeping the minimum of data while contact tracing: <https://chooseprivacyeveryday.org/the-privacy-perils-of-contact-tracing-in-libraries/>
- VTLIB Quarantine Page: <https://libraries.vermont.gov/covid19/quarantining>
- Managing COVID-19 Risks at Outdoor Events (slides shared by Jonathan): <https://files.constantcontact.com/4e4f0aac701/68e914df-3d39-4c31-968d-c98954fc3aec.pdf>
- VTLIB Ventilation Page: <https://libraries.vermont.gov/covid19/reopeninginformation/ventilation>
- VTLIB Updating COOP: https://libraries.vermont.gov/covid19/reopeninginformation/updating_coop
- VTLIB Reopening Plans: <https://libraries.vermont.gov/covid19/reopeninginformation/resourcesandplans>
- ALA Pandemic Page: <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/privacy/guidelines/pandemic>
- VTLIB Summer Program Grant Information: https://libraries.vermont.gov/services/VTLIB_grants/summer_program_grant

Select Questions and Answers from the Chat Log:

Q: What about restrooms?

A: Restroom Guidance from VTLIB:

We have been working with the Attorney General's Office, the VT Department of Fire Safety, and the ACCD to get authoritative guidance on the following question:

With the requirements in the Governor's "Stay Home Stay Safe" Executive Order and the Mandatory Health and Safety Requirements from ACCD, are public libraries required to keep their restrooms open to the public?

According to guidance from these entities:

In order to maintain compliance with safety codes, building codes, and ADA, if libraries (and similar places of public accommodation) have a restroom(s) available to staff, then they must also have a restroom(s) available to the public.

We realize that this may place a cleaning burden on library staff who are trying to meet the Mandatory Health and Safety Requirements from the ACCD (while also serving patrons and doing other parts of their job), specifically:

All common spaces (when open) and equipment, including bathrooms, frequently touched surfaces and doors, tools and equipment, and vehicles must be cleaned regularly and, when possible, prior to transfer from one person to another, in accordance with CDC guidance.

Please note, however, that the guidance says “cleaned regularly” and “when possible, prior to transfer from one person to another.” It will be important for library directors to work with their trustees and staff (and, when applicable, their cleaning service companies) to determine how frequently it will be feasible for bathrooms to be cleaned when the library is open to the public. Library directors might consider posting a sign on their public restroom doors/in their public restrooms to notify the public about the frequency of bathroom cleaning so that the public is aware and can make their own risk assessments regarding their use of the bathroom.

Q: What should we do about quarantining items?

A: For quarantining and cleaning that decision should be made by the individual libraries based on the most recent science and what works best for their communities. See VTLIB’s page (link above).

Q: Any special guidance for volunteers?

A: We have been advising libraries to follow the same guidelines that exist for employees, if they are allowing volunteers to work in the library.

Q: Does "performance" also mean guest speakers, discussion groups, etc. Library programs.

A: Yes, "performance" would include guest speakers, discussion groups, etc.

Q: CDC has reduced distancing for school aged kids to 3 feet, how does that impact our youth services?

A: The state guidelines still use 6 ft distance.

Q: How does "linger" relate to patrons using computers - is it still okay to have 30 minute appointments?

A: Computer usage is different. Having appointment schedules works and that should be acceptable as long as it is in compliance with the ACCD spacing and capacity requirements.

Q: Is contract tracing required for outdoor programming?

A: Yes

Q: What if they say they don't want to work in-library because they chose not to be vaccinated? Can we require work in-library?

A: This can get complicated, but the choice not to get vaccinated is not a valid reason to NOT come into work. If there is an underlying medical condition this may require your best effort to accommodate that person.

Q: At some point I'd love some suggestions for border towns. We traditionally have lots of visitors from Hampton, NY (just 1 mile away from the library). Libraries are not considered essential, so my understanding is that they cannot come into the library due to travel restrictions. Is this accurate? If so, how are others monitoring and enforcing this?

A: There are specific ACCD guidelines for border towns; but they are for VT residents, not NY.