



Information sent every Thursday at 9 a.m., with developments for our member libraries related to COVID-19.

1) What's New on the [WVLS COVID-19 webpage](#).

- Status of WVLS Member Libraries

2) Recommended Materials Quarantine Time

On Monday, October 12, Shannon Schultz sent out the following message to Wisconsin library directors:

In response to inquiries received from various sources connected to the Wisconsin library community, the Division for Libraries and Technology (DLT) reached out to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) for guidance on the handling and circulation of library materials during the COVID-19 pandemic. The decision to contact DHS at this time was based on the recent advice released by the State Library of Oregon, in response to concerns about independent interpretation of the results of the REALM project, whose research has provided information about the viability of the virus on library materials, but has not provided specific recommendations on materials handling.

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.

At this time, there is not a majority consensus among library systems on the quarantine times. WVLS is still gathering information and seeking feedback, before we make a recommendation. We will be seeking input at next week's Staying Together Discussion (see below). In the meantime, we recommend using the 4-day quarantine guideline. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact jmatczak@wvls.org.

3) Next "Staying Together" Set for Tuesday, Oct. 20

The next Staying Together Discussion is on **Tuesday, Oct. 20 at 1 p.m.** The topic will be on the

quarantining of materials, based on the new guidelines from DPI. WVLS will NOT be making a final recommendation to our member libraries at this meeting. We will be sharing information and seeking feedback only. If you are not able to attend this meeting, please send any comments or feedback to Jamie at jmatczak@wvls.org, or call at 920-455-0668.

Phone: +1.408.419.1715 or 1.408.915.6290 (only one number is needed to join)

Meeting ID: 715 397 297 139 731

Or Sign-in via Computer: <https://bluejeans.com/715397297139731>

4) State Mandates

Here are some highlights on the state mandates in the last week:

- On Tuesday, October 6, 2020, Governor Tony Evers directed Wisconsin Department of Health Services Secretary-designee Andrea Palm to issue [Emergency Order 3](#), limiting public gatherings to no more than 25 percent of a room or building's total occupancy, with some exceptions. The Order is effective at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 8, until Friday, November 6, 2020.
- On Monday, Oct. 12, *a St. Croix County judge refused to halt Gov. Tony Evers latest emergency order that imposed a mask mandate statewide and, while doing so, criticized the basis of the plaintiffs' case against the measure. On Monday, Judge Michael Waterman refused their motion to issue a temporary injunction, blocking the order while the case was being decided. [Read more.](#)*
- On Wednesday, October 14, *a Wisconsin judge has temporarily blocked an order from Gov. Tony Evers' administration limiting the number of people who can gather in bars, restaurants and other indoor places. Sawyer County Circuit Judge John Yackel on Wednesday blocked the order and set a court date for Monday. The Democratic governor's order, issued last week, limited the number of customers in many indoor establishment to 25% of capacity. A spokeswoman for Evers did not immediately return a message seeking comment on the ruling. [Read more.](#)*

As always, WVLS recommends that libraries continue to follow recommendations from local health departments and adhere to practices that are best for their communities. We will keep you up-to-date with changes and any state-wide recommendations. Feel free to reach out to any WVLS staff with questions or concerns.

5) Upcoming Webinars

- Join PLA for a free webinar, [The ACA and Advancing LGBTQ Health](#), on October 21 at 1 p.m. Central. Register [here](#).

The COVID-19 pandemic has made it critical for health information providers across the country to stay informed about the special protections and benefits health insurance coverage offers to the safety of LGBTQ community members. This free webinar will help educate public library practitioners about available health insurance coverage options, benefits, and special federal protections exclusively for LGBTQ communities during the Open Enrollment period of the Affordable Care Act (Nov. 1–Dec. 15, 2020 for plans that start Jan. 1, 2021).

- **Improvise into the Unknown: Techniques for Adapting to Uncertain Times with More Ease & Joy**; Friday, Oct. 23, 12- 2 p.m. Two-Hour Remote Interactive Presentation with Pam Victor, President, Happier Valley Comedy Improvisers are trained to eat the unknown for breakfast. As a professional improviser, Pam Victor's job is to jump into the unknown and instantly create content out of thin air with her colleagues. And now, Pam shares easy-to-learn techniques to support you in improvising opportunities with more positivity and ease in this unexpected new reality. [Register here.](#)