



Library Materials Handling FAQ

What measures has Bowen Library put in place to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission?

- Ensuring that staff and patrons do not enter the library if they are sick
- Maintaining physical distancing through signage and barriers
- Limited occupancy numbers
- Increased frequency of cleaning of high-touch surfaces
- Providing handwashing facilities and hand sanitizer
- Expecting that the public will wear a face mask while in the library and providing face masks to the public if they have not brought their own
- Requiring staff to wear masks where physical distancing is not possible

Is Bowen Library quarantining books?

- Bowen Library, along with other BC libraries, continues to follow the advice and recommendations of provincial health authorities, which is evolving as new information is available
- Bowen Library is no longer quarantining library materials in response to the guidelines and advice of the BCCDC.
- Guidelines for [libraries](#) and for [library visitors](#), issued by the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC), state that the risk of transmission is very low, and that evidence does not require libraries to quarantine or disinfect their loaned items
- Early in the pandemic, many libraries adopted a 72-hour quarantine based on the limited studies available. This was done out of an abundance of caution rather than a health authority directive.

Can You get COVID-19 from Books, DVDs and Other Library Materials?

“The main way that COVID-19 spreads is person-to-person. The risk of getting sick from borrowed library items is very low:

- There is no evidence that the COVID-19 virus spreads through books, paper or other paper-based products.
- Laminated or glossy paper-based products (e.g., magazines and children’s books) and items with plastic covers (e.g., DVDs) can be contaminated if handled by a person with COVID-19; however, even though a virus may be on a surface, that does not always mean it will be spread that way.
- Libraries are not required to ‘quarantine’ or disinfect their loaned items; however, some libraries are taking this extra step. If it makes you feel more comfortable, you can leave your borrowed library material in a bag for at least 72 hours.”

From BCCDC: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/community-settings/libraries#Information--for--visitors>