Mitigating COVID-19 When Managing Paper-Based, Circulating, and Other Types of Collections webinar, 3/30/2020 – IMLS and CDC


Executive Summary:
Speakers included Dr. David Berendes and Dr. Catherine Rasberry from the Centers for Disease Control.

Key points in webinar:
1. Look at existing emergency plans and sick leave policies
2. Important preventative actions and communication of those actions
3. Social distancing
4. High Risk Groups
5. Cleaning and Disinfection

Specific resources referred to during webinar are linked at the bottom of this page under Official Government Information and Resources: https://www.imls.gov/coronavirus-covid-19-updates
Dr. Rasberry states that the most relevant guidelines are in the Resources for Community & Faith Based Leaders document, the Resources for Large Community Events and Mass Gatherings, and the Resources for Businesses and Employers. Dr. Berendes highlighted the EPA information on Disinfectants for COVID-19.

Main points regarding circulating collections:
- Hard non-porous surfaces should be cleaned with soap/water and then wiped down with a disinfectant (at least 70% alcohol).
- Soft/porous surfaces are not as much of a concern since virus doesn’t survive long there
- Paper-based materials are porous surfaces
- CDC not concerned about paper-based materials being a transmission route.
- If virus is present on paper, it would be low quantities and would die off quickly
- To act conservatively, can wait 24 hours – 48 hours before handling those materials
- Books covered in plastic or materials in plastic cases – wipe with an appropriate disinfectant wipe, or leave alone for 24-48 hours.