

Communicable Disease Policy

This policy is intended to provide guidance for preventing the spread of communicable diseases in the library environment.

Communicable diseases, for purposes of this policy, are serious diseases that are capable of being transmitted to other individuals through the air or by direct physical contact between individuals or contaminants. Communicable diseases include, but are not limited to, contagious and infectious diseases such as measles, mumps, chicken pox, influenza, tuberculosis, viral hepatitis-A (infectious hepatitis), viral hepatitis-B (serum hepatitis), and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

The library will not discriminate against any customer or employee based on the individual having a communicable disease. Customers and employees shall not be denied access to the library solely on the grounds that they have a communicable disease. However, notwithstanding the above, TCCL reserves the right to exclude a person with a communicable disease from the library facilities, programs and functions if the organization finds that, based on a reasonable determination, such restriction is necessary for the welfare of the person who has the communicable disease and/or the welfare of others within TCCL, including a significant risk that that such disease will be transmitted to other customers or employees.

The library will comply with all applicable statutes and regulations that protect the privacy of persons who have a communicable disease. Every effort will be made to ensure procedurally sufficient safeguards to maintain the personal confidence about persons who have communicable diseases.

Employee and Customer Responsibility While in a TCCL Facility

- Each individual has a responsibility to prevent the spread of communicable diseases when they are aware or suspect that they are or could be a carrier of a communicable disease. Awareness is showing signs or feeling signs of illness, such as coughing, sneezing, fever, joint aches, overall ill feeling or a report of a communicable disease from a health care provider.
- Awareness also includes known exposure to someone with a known or suspected communicable disease or caring for someone with a known or suspected communicable disease.
- Good judgment skills by all are critical in safeguarding the health of the library customers and employees.
- Avoid public places if you have or suspect you have a contagious disease. See your healthcare provider for guidance on when you are no longer contagious.
- Practice proper hygiene by covering your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing with a tissue. If this is not possible, then the elbow or hand can be used for coughs and sneezes, with immediate hand washing or sanitizing of hands. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. Wash hands frequently.

TCCL Guidance

To help stop the spread of communicable diseases, TCCL will:

- Encourage infection control practices in the library by displaying posters that address and remind individuals about proper hand washing, respiratory hygiene, keeping hands away from nose and mouth, cough etiquette, and in the case of airborne diseases, maintaining appropriate distances.
- Require janitorial cleaning to wipe down with an appropriate sanitizer or disinfectant all public high-touch common areas, in addition to the standard janitorial cleaning. Employees may be required to sanitize or disinfect any library equipment or surface areas deemed appropriate.
- Provide sufficient facilities for hand washing with soap and water, and alcohol-based (at least 60%) hand sanitizers (or wipes) in common areas for customers and employees to clean work stations and work surfaces.

Tulsa City-County Library Policies

- Provide a healthy environment by following standard health and safety practices and procedures recommended by public health officials for handling body fluids.
- Require customers and employees demonstrating active symptoms of a communicable disease leave TCCL facilities if TCCL personnel reasonably believe the person is placing the welfare of themselves or others at risk.

Influenza Special Cases, Flu Pandemic or other Widespread Illnesses

In the event of any serious outbreaks of influenza or other widespread illness, as determined by the Tulsa City-County Health Department, State of Oklahoma, United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), or any other authorized public health official; the recommended or mandated protocols for such outbreak will be followed in addition to all the applicable library policy guidelines.