March 6, 2020

Dear Public Library Director:

As the Director of the Illinois State Library, I would like to share with you information our office has received from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), Central Management Services (CMS) and other experts about COVID-19 (commonly referred to as coronavirus).

As you are aware, concerns about COVID-19 require an abundance of caution and have resulted in certain Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines pertaining to the sanitization and disinfection of surfaces and facilities. The American Library Association is guiding libraries to the CDC and state resources on this issue, with a special emphasis on the IDPH, serving as a key resource. The Illinois Library Association is advocating the use of similar online resources that libraries may choose to access.

First and foremost, it is advised to thoroughly clean and disinfect items or areas that patrons and library employees touch regularly. Those items include, but are not limited to, door handles (including the stalls of the restrooms, if any), railings, chair arms, counters and restroom areas. In addition, we suggest that you consider the handling of library materials being returned to your facility.

The CDC’s best practices change as more information becomes known about this virus. For the CDC’s most up-to-date practices, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/guidance-business-response.html

In addition, please review the accompanying memo from CMS outlining best practices.

I thank you for your commitment to serving your community as an invaluable resource and safety net as well as your efforts to minimize the spread of all viruses, including COVID-19.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormick, Director
Illinois State Library

GM:Idg