



Libraries may reopen on June 8, 2020

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Foster Swift Library Law News E-blast

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In Executive Order No. 2020-110 issued June 1, 2020, Governor Whitmer ordered that libraries may open June 8, 2020, subject to the rules governing retail stores described in Executive Order 2020-97 or any order that may follow from it. The rules for retail stores that are now applicable to libraries are as follows:

Safety Precautions

- Adhere to size restrictions for the number of people in the library (including employees) based on size of public floor space.
 - Libraries with less than 50,000 square feet – 25% of occupancy;
 - Libraries with more than 50,000 square feet – limit of 4 people per 1,000 square feet of patron space and create at least 2 hours each week of dedicated time for vulnerable people, such as people over 60, pregnant women, and those with chronic conditions like heart disease, diabetes, and lung disease.
- Establish lines to regulate entry. Use markings to keep patrons at least six feet apart while waiting in line. Libraries should also explore alternatives to lines, including by allowing patrons to wait in their cars for a text message or phone call, to enable social distancing and to accommodate seniors and those with disabilities.
- Install physical barriers at checkout and other service points. This includes Plexiglass barriers, tape markers, and tables, as appropriate.
- Design spaces and activities in the library to encourage employees and patrons to remain six feet apart.
- Establish enhanced cleaning and sanitizing protocols for high touch areas, such as restrooms, computers/keypads, counters, and checkout areas.
- Limit the number of staff to the minimum amount necessary to operate.

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PRACTICE AREAS

Coronavirus Pandemic/Crisis
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Library Law

Municipal & Public Entity Law



Patron Notifications

- Create communications materials (signs or pamphlets) to inform patrons of changes to library practices and explain the precautions being taken to prevent infection.
- Post signs at the entrance instructing patrons of their legal obligation to wear a face covering.
- Post signs informing patrons to not enter if they are or recently have been sick.

Employee Training and Notifications

- Train employees on appropriate cleaning procedures.
- Train employees on how to manage symptomatic patrons that may be in or enter the library.
- Notify employees if an individual, such as an employee, patron, or contractor, with a confirmed case of COVID-19 has visited the library.

Additionally, libraries must have a COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan that complies with OSHA requirements. Foster Swift can assist with providing a preparedness plan and can also guide libraries through the reopening process. For further questions regarding this communication, please contact:

- Anne Seurnck...616.726.2240...aseurnck@fosterswift.com

For other questions/concerns about the COVID-19 crisis, contact your Foster Swift attorney or a member of Foster Swift's Coronavirus Task Force:

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While the information in this article is accurate at time of publication, the laws and regulations surrounding COVID-19 are constantly evolving. Please consult your attorney or advisor to make sure you have the most up to date information before taking action.