



BCTLA Recommendations for Access to Library Learning Commons Resources to Meet COVID-19 Requirements

As schools prepare for a partial return of students, the BCTLA recognizes that Library Learning Commons' (LLC) spaces and programs will look different to meet the current Health requirements. We encourage all teacher-librarians to meet with their administration team and, in a spirit of collaboration, develop procedures for reopening LLC spaces and programs in a way that ensures student and staff safety.

The school LLC program is an integral part of a learning community. An LLC program, run by a teacher-librarian, supports literacy across the school in a unique and fundamental way.

1. Reading - teacher-librarians promote reading as a critical part of developing literacy, empathy and other social emotional skills students need to succeed.
2. Choice – teacher-librarians advocate for independent selection of reading materials by students.
3. Physical & Digital resources – LLCs provide access to a variety of physical resources increasing student equality. Physical resources are more available to support Aboriginal learning and French immersion. Research shows that print reading has some distinct advantages over digital reading. (National Library of New Zealand. 2019. Reading on-screen vs reading in print: What's the difference for learning?)
<https://natlib.govt.nz/blog/posts/reading-on-screen-vs-reading-in-print-what's-the-difference-for-learning>
4. Programs - teacher-librarians develop unique programs using the curriculum, designed to support student learning needs and literacies. (BCTLA. 2017. What is a teacher-librarian?)
<https://bctla.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/what-is-a-teacherlibrarian.pdf>
5. Autonomy - a solid LLC program recognizes and embraces teacher-librarian autonomy. The teacher-librarian has the education and experience necessary to make informed decisions regarding LLC spaces and programs. Further, each school's teacher-librarian will have developed relationships with students, families and staff. The relationships provide important community context information that will inform the implementation of LLC services now and in the future.

Current Covid-19 Information

- “There is no evidence that the COVID-19 virus is transmitted via textbooks, paper or other paper-based products. As such, there is no need to limit the distribution or sharing of books or paper based educational resources to students because of COVID-19”. (BC Public Health Officer May 15, 2020)
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/covid-19/covid-19-pho-guidance-k-12-schools.pdf>
- “Limit items that are not easily cleaned (e.g., fabric or soft items)..”(BC Public Health Officer May 15, 2020).
- “A [study](#), published in March in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, showed that the virus "remained active on plastic and stainless steel surfaces for two to three days under the conditions in this experiment. It remained infectious for up to 24 hours on cardboard." (School Library Journal. April 9, 2020. IMLS, CDC offer guidance for disinfecting returned library books.)
<https://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/?detailStory=IMLS-CDC-offer-guidance-for-disinfecting-returned-books-library-journal-coronavirus-covid19>

Library Learning Commons - ideas for sharing resources

- As many LLC resources are covered with plastic, consider isolating returned items for three days. This could be done by having designated drop off bins that are put in an isolation area for three days at the end of each day.
- Consider being flexible with your lending periods.
- Students and staff can place holds using the online library learning commons catalogue where available.
- LLC collections can be browsed online and choices can be phoned or emailed to the teacher-librarian.
- LLC resources can be checked out and labelled for pick up in a designated area for a specific window of time.
- Resources such as DVDs, manipulatives and specialty items, can be wiped down before and after use.
- Consider using outdoor space with tables for displaying and distributing LLC resources.
- Consider creating a document or presentation to explain to staff, students and families how to access the online catalogue, place holds (if possible) and pick up LLC resources.

Library Learning Commons - ideas for using your space safely

- Consider the size of your LLC space, and how many students and staff can be in your space following physical distancing and physical contact requirements (BC Public Health Officer May 15, 2020) <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/covid-19/covid-19-pho-guidance-k-12-schools.pdf>. Use these considerations to design LLC use guidelines.
- Talk with your administration about timing of custodial staff cleaning of surfaces that have been touched, for example computer keyboards, tablets and maker resources.
- Consider scheduling LLC space visits so your doorway is used in one direction at a time. If you have 2 or more doors consider separate entry and exit points.
- Consider closing sitting areas to students and staff.
- Consider placing fun markers on your floor to show safe physical distances and placing arrows to show direction to access library shelves.
- Consider having students scan their own LLC resources (taped in place scanner), or holding them so you can scan them from a distance.
- Consider how to make your checkout desk wider to maintain a safe physical distance, for example adding an extra table or chair.
- Consider pulling resources and displaying them on tables to reduce the number of resources that are touched. To get an idea of what to share, ask teachers the types of resources their students would like.
- Consider planning activities that minimize sharing of resources that require special cleaning.
- Consider using signage, bookmarks, websites to share new guidelines for use of LLC resources and space.

Ultimately, please contact your BCTF Local should you have questions or concerns.