



Considerations and Conversations for a Healthy Library

As libraries across the country re-open their doors with temporary measures, we consider how these facilities may change in the long term post COVID-19. Below, Bialosky shares big picture considerations on how this crisis can accelerate public libraries to adapt buildings for safe, healthy occupancy while evolving services to support the community during and after the pandemic.

HEALTHY PEOPLE

Review high-touch areas, like restrooms

- Install sensor activated fixtures in public restrooms
- Consider whether the infection control benefits of paper towels over air hand dryers outweigh maintenance concerns
- Provide a hands-free means to access restrooms

Evaluate circulation and building access

- Install entry doors with motion activated automatic openers
- Consider adjusting layouts to allow for temporary one-way traffic and/or check-in stations

Make accommodations to quarantine returned materials

- Designate a space for implementing material quarantine protocols
- Consider automated materials handling to reduce staff touch points track materials

Assess (and possibly retrofit) your workspaces

- Consider workstation utilization and reconfiguration
- See our Workplace Considerations articles for more ideas to consider

HEALTHY BUILDING

Evaluate HVAC systems for air quality improvement options

- Assess existing systems to confirm proper operation and determine best practices for maintenance staff
- Evaluate opportunities for improved air quality through natural ventilation, increased fresh air intake and daily flush-outs
- Identify opportunities for enhanced air filtration

Increase access to daylight/outdoors

- Review opportunities to reconfigure space to increase access to natural light
- Consider how outdoor space can be better utilized to support expanded programming

Heightened focus on wellness

- Look to established guidelines such as the International WELL Building Institute and Fitwel
- Review cleaning protocol to ensure that it provides a hygienic space while utilizing sustainable products and practices

HEALTHY COMMUNITY

Expand how you deliver material to users

- Provide patrons options to limit their exposure in public spaces by implementing book lockers, drive-up, or curbside services
- Consider the need for expanded homebound services or satellite hold locations to improve access

Expand access to remote meeting technology

- Upgrade remote conferencing capabilities in meeting and study rooms to support distance learning
- Create spaces for recording of digital audio and video content by staff and patrons

Stay Flexible

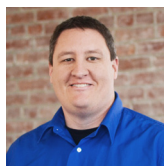
- Utilize flexible furniture and mobile shelving to allow for reconfiguration of spaces to meet changing health protocols and the community needs that evolve along with them
- Evaluate layout options for meeting rooms to maximize their capacity when use is limited

Questions on adapting your library?

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