

Toy Library Covid-19 Protocols

The President declared a Covid-19 National State of Disaster in March 2020. The national lockdown resulted in the closure of all toy libraries. On 17 March, the Department of Social Development announced mandatory closure of all ECD programmes, and confirmed continued closure in the circular of 13 May 2020. However, toy libraries located in public libraries may re-open on level 3. These protocols are aimed at supporting our membership to prepare to reopen once permitted to do so.

Social distancing

- The minimum number of toy librarians should be working in order to achieve social distancing.
- Toy library activities should be revised to minimise contact between toy librarians and members of the toy library by ensuring a distance of one and a half meters between toy librarians and members.
- Physical barriers or face shields/visors could be used to ensure social distancing.
- Restrict number of members in the toy library at all times.
- Toy libraries should display information relating to the dangers of the virus, the manner of transmission, measures to prevent transmission, social distancing, use of masks, cough etiquette, as well as where to go for screening or testing.

Screening on arrival at toy library

- Every toy librarian reporting for duty should be screened to determine whether they have observable symptoms associated with Covid-19 namely fever, cough, sore throat, redness of eyes or shortness of breath.
- If a toy librarian presents with Covid-19 symptoms, they should be isolated, provided a FFP1 surgical mask and be safely transported either to be self-isolated, or for medical examination or testing
- Disinfect the surfaces and work station of the toy librarian, refer those that may be at risk for screening.

Paid sick leave

- Toy librarians are eligible for paid sick leave or can apply for an illness benefit to the Covid-19 Temporary Employer Relief Scheme.
- Toy librarians can only return to work if they have undergone a medical evaluation confirming that they tested negative for Covid-19.

Hand sanitiser

- Hand sanitiser with at least 70% alcohol content must be placed at the entrance of the toy library and at the counter where toys are issued for use by the toy librarian and the member
- Sanitising of hands are required between each interaction with members of the public or between co-workers

Hand washing

- Regular washing of hands with soap and clean water is required
- Only paper towels are to be provided to dry hands

Disinfecting surfaces and toys in a toy library¹

- High-touch surfaces and equipment should be prioritised for disinfection in a toy library.
- High-touch surfaces, all containers, equipment and all toys that are being touched, used or returned by members must be washed with water and soap/detergent to remove dirt and then be disinfected.
- Surfaces, equipment and toys touched by someone should be wiped down with a freshly prepared solution of bleach or chlorine solution of 1 part bleach/chlorine to 49 parts of water. Alcohol at 70-90% can also be used for surface disinfection.
- Spraying disinfectants is not effective to combat Covid-19. Wiping down surfaces, equipment and toys with a cloth soaked in the disinfectant is required.

Protection measures when using disinfectants

- The toy librarian doing the cleaning should wear a mask, rubber gloves, waterproof apron and closed shoes.
- Avoid combining disinfectants such as bleach and ammonia since it causes respiratory irritation and potentially fatal gases.
- Keep children and other people away from odours by opening windows to ensure good ventilation.

Cloth masks

- Cloth masks must be worn when commuting to work and when in the toy library, or any other public place.
- Each toy librarian should have two cloth masks.
- Toy librarians have to be trained on the correct use of cloth masks.
- Put up posters requesting members to wear masks when inside the toy library

Ventilation

- Keep the toy library well ventilated by opening windows and doors.

Mobile toy library services

- Minimise contact with members when dropping off or collecting toys.
- Implement all aspects contained in this guideline.
- Mobile Toy Librarian to wear cloth mask and plastic disposable apron and closed shoes.
- Mobile Toy Librarian to sanitise hands after each delivery and or collection.
- Interior of vehicle to be wiped down with bleach and water solution upon returning to the office.

Play sessions at toy libraries

- Toy libraries are not permitted to host play sessions during level 3 and may only resume play sessions once Department of Social Development has provided clear guidelines in terms of working with children in group settings.

Resources such as posters and videos are available for use

- General prevention guidelines:
https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_documents/Poster-Prevent_COVID-19.pdf
- Advice to Parents - Supporting your children through the Covid-19 Lockdown:
<https://sacoronavirus.co.za/2020/05/20/advice-to-parents-supporting-your-children-through-the-covid-19-lockdown/>
- A variety of tool kits, posters and videos for use:
<https://sacoronavirus.co.za/category/tool-kits/>
- Videos to help explain Covid-19 to children:
<https://sacoronavirus.co.za/category/explaining-covid-19-to-kids/>



Disclaimer:

These guidelines are not an exhaustive list. TLASA undertakes to update these guidelines if new information becomes available and cannot be held liable for incorrect or outdated information.

¹ <https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/q-a-considerations-for-the-cleaning-and-disinfection-of-environmental-surfaces-in-the-context-of-covid-19-in-non-health-care-settings>