

Maine State Library Contact Tracing Guidance

Guidance on collection of contact tracing information in Maine libraries based on the [Public and Community Building Checklist](#) recommendations and patron privacy considerations.

Libraries should not feel compelled to gather data from patrons entering the building for contact tracing purposes **unless** a library staff person has been in close proximity (less than 6 ft.) of a patron or vendor for more than 15 minutes. If that occurs, collecting the least amount of contact data would be recommended. Name and email address – or – Name and phone #. Libraries should destroy data after 14 days has passed.

MSL believes this conforms with the State of Maine’s Public and Community Building Guidance at this time.

In the [Public and Community Building Checklist](#) it says:

“For contact tracing purposes, **to the extent practicable**, establishments should maintain a record including contact information for visitors and staff who have **direct prolonged interaction.**”

Based on current knowledge, a close contact is someone who was **within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes** starting from 48 hours before illness onset until the time the patient is isolated. Close contacts should stay home, maintain social distancing, and self-monitor until 14 days from the last date of exposure.

For more information:

[The Privacy Perils of Contact Tracing in Libraries](#)

Maine CDC- [Contact Tracing for COVID-19](#)

ALA - [Privacy and Confidentiality Q&A](#)