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