

This is taken from the US Northeast Document Conservation Center which has recommendations for disinfecting books in circulation. Thank you to Kate Kelly at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland for surfacing this useful resource.

(http://www.ala.org/tools/sites/ala.org.tools/files/content/NEDCC%20recommendations%20for%20disinfecting%20books_Mar2020-converted.pdf)

- Disinfecting circulating books The Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC) recommends a 24 to 48-hour quarantine of returned books as the safest and most effective way to disinfect them. A study that is currently in preprint has just been released showing that COVID-19 will last on surfaces such as cardboard for 24 hours: <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.03.09.20033217v1.full.pdf>.
- Unfortunately, the use of liquid disinfectants is harmful to the books and is not recommended. UV ray exposure as a means of sterilization is also not recommended. Not only are UV rays harmful to the books, but in correspondence on the Preservation Administrators' Interest Group list-serv, the Chair of the American Institute for Conservation Health and Safety Committee has indicated that 40 minutes of exposure at high doses is required to kill bacteria using UV rays and this will not disinfect places that the UV rays miss during exposure.
- Staff should be directed to wear gloves when moving collections into quarantine and remove them immediately afterwards so as not to accidentally touch anything else (like door handles). After removing the gloves, staff should wash their hands for 20 seconds, following CDC guidelines. If a dedicated quarantine space cannot be established, staff can put the item in a bag until the 24 to 48- hour period is over so staff do not accidentally handle the item during the quarantine period.