

For immediate release

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Covid-19 Exposure at Gibson Memorial Library

Creston, IA – Gibson Memorial Library learned that it had a COVID-19 exposure on Monday, January 25, 2021 after the Library had opened to the public and then closed due to weather. As a precaution, the Library is also including Friday, January 22, 2021 as a possible date of exposure.

On Tuesday, January 26, 2021 the Library closed to the public to allow time for cleaning and to notify staff that they may have been exposed. All staff working Friday, January 22, 2021 and Monday, January 25, 2021, have completed Test Iowa's self-assessment, received testing and are at home in quarantine.

The Centers for Disease Control defines the following for “close contacts”:

What counts as close contact?

- You were within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more
- You provided care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19
- You had direct physical contact with the person (hugged or kissed them)
- You shared eating or drinking utensils
- They sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html#:~:text=What counts as close contact%3F&text=Stay home for 14 days, person who has COVID-19>

Am I still considered a close contact for COVID-19 if I was wearing a mask?

- Yes, you are still considered a close contact even if you were wearing a mask while you were around someone with COVID-19. Although masks provide some measure of protection to the wearer, there is always the chance that you have been infected.

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html>

Any patron who feels they may have been in close contact with someone outside their immediate family for 15 minutes or longer, and came into the Library, on Friday, January 22, 2021 or Monday, January 25, 2021, may qualify for free testing by going to the Test Iowa website and completing the self-assessment:

https://covid19testingia.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_817JMzsP0Sj3L1j

There are two main ways the virus is spread:

- 1 - Through inhaling the droplets of someone else's sneeze/cough
- 2 – Touching your eyes, nose or mouth with the virus on your hands

In the meantime, here is what you can do:

Monitor your health and practice social distancing. Try to stay at least 6 feet away from others who are NOT in your immediate family. Avoid walking near or through a “cloud” of someone’s recent sneeze or cough.

Source: <https://www.testiowa.com/en>

The Library is hoping to reopen to curbside services only starting Tuesday February 2, 2021, depending on guidance provided from Public Health, the Library Board and Director and the City of Creston.

We appreciate the public’s understanding as we navigate this challenging situation.