

September 2020
Library Stakeholder Report
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Santa Clara County Library District Going Above and Beyond Library Services

We've said it before, "The Library is so much more than just books," and with the many emergencies our County is facing with COVID, extreme heat, power outages, fires, and poor air quality, you may be surprised to know the many ways the Library District is supporting the most critical needs of residents.

- Evacuation Resource Center at the Milpitas Library for fire evacuees
- 30% of staff serving as Disaster Service Workers and Contact Tracers
- Cooling Centers in June, July and August
- Clean Air Centers in August



Of course, Monday through Saturday, we continue to provide phone, chat and email support to patrons, offer virtual programs, and curbside services. Due to the poor air quality as a result of the fires, we had to pause our curbside services for several days in August and will continue to adjust as needed to protect the health and safety of our staff and patrons.

We are making conscientious decisions to safely provide library services, based on the guidance of health and safety officials in this rapidly changing environment. We ask for your patience as we all navigate through the many new demands put upon us during this challenging time.

Our [online library](#) and [virtual programs](#) are available from the safety of home or anywhere with an internet connection, which now includes the library parking lots! Keep reading for more information.

Please stay safe, healthy, and happy reading!

Expanded Wi-Fi now available throughout the Library District

We know that the COVID pandemic has not affected everyone equally. This has further called attention to the digital divide in the Silicon Valley, as more people are reliant on the internet to apply for unemployment, stimulus checks, business resources, or to support distance learning.

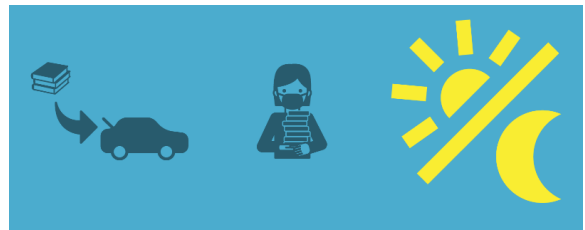


To help our patrons and residents get connected, the Library has extended free Wi-Fi in the parking lots of the Campbell, Cupertino, Gilroy, Los Altos, Milpitas, Morgan Hill and Saratoga Libraries. The Wi-Fi will be available from the parking lots 24/7 for patrons to access from the safety of their cars and/or outdoors where they are able to social distance. In addition, we have installed Wi-Fi on both Bookmobiles to provide Wi-Fi access to patrons when the Bookmobile is out in the community.

Free Wi-Fi signs will be installed in each library parking lot in September to designate the area Wi-Fi is available.

Day and Evening Curbside Services Starting after Labor Day

In order to provide more options for our patrons to pick up their holds and return library materials, starting Sep 8, SCCLD will begin offering evening curbside services at all Libraries. The schedule will be staggered to provide regional flexibility for day and evening hours.



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Campbell	1-5pm	3-7pm	3-7pm	1-5pm	1-5pm	1-5pm
Cupertino	1-5pm	1-5pm	3-7pm	3-7pm	1-5pm	1-5pm
Gilroy	3-7pm	3-7pm	1-5pm	1-5pm	1-5pm	1-5pm
Los Altos	3-7pm	3-7pm	1-5pm	1-5pm	1-5pm	1-5pm
Milpitas	3-7pm	3-7pm	1-5pm	1-5pm	1-5pm	1-5pm
Morgan Hill	1-5pm	3-7pm	3-7pm	1-5pm	1-5pm	1-5pm
Saratoga	3-7pm	3-7pm	1-5pm	1-5pm	1-5pm	1-5pm
Woodland	1-5pm	1-5pm	3-7pm	3-7pm	1-5pm	1-5pm

NOW AVAILABLE: Career Online High School (COHS)

Career Online High School is an accredited online high school diploma and career certification program provided by Gale, a part of Cengage Learning, and in partnership with the California State Library. SCCLD will offer 10 scholarships to qualified applicants. All learning is completed online and is self-paced, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Academic Coaches are assigned to help students succeed.



**CAREER
ONLINE**
HIGH SCHOOL

This High School Diploma, not a GED, opens the door to opportunities for higher education, a better job or promotion, increased self-confidence, and higher pay.

Starting at the end of August, SCCLD began accepting applications from interested participants, inviting them to complete the required workshop as a part of their evaluation process. Candidates can apply at any time. Once candidates successfully complete their application and workshop, they will be scheduled for an interview. Final participants will be selected after the interview process.

For more information about the program, visit <https://www.careeronlinehs.gale.com/ca/the-program/faqs/>

August by the Numbers

The Library District continues to serve our patrons in many ways and the numbers show just how much they are enjoying their local library:

- **7,253 curbside appointments:** We have increased the drop-in walkup services that do not require an appointment, which has decreased the curbside appointments by 25% from July.
- **231,522 physical items checked out and 207,674 items returned:** Items checked out shows a 62% increase from July while returned items increased by 50%.
- **59 Virtual Programs = 2,405 Live Views and over 1,881 Total Views:** SCCLD offers virtual programs for all ages Monday through Saturday, which patrons can enjoy from the safety and convenience of home.
- **141,642 eBooks circulated:** While holds on physical items are limited to 12, our patrons continue to enjoy their eBooks as these can be borrowed and renewed online (if eligible), and automatically returned when the due date arrives.

Library Trends

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and OCLC are working in partnership with Battelle to distribute science-based information designed to help reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 to staff and visitors who are engaging in the delivery or use of archive, library, and museum services. This REopening Archives, Libraries, and Museums (REALM) project is studying how long the SARS CoV-2 virus (the virus that causes COVID-19) survives on common materials and methods to mitigate exposure. These studies continue to help advise the very safest way to circulate library materials. Currently, SCCLD is quarantining all materials for 4 days and rigid case audio materials one extra day in accordance with the most recent data further described below.

Test 3: Natural attenuation as a decontamination approach for SARS-CoV-2 on five plastic-based materials

As part of the project’s Phase 1 research, Battelle has conducted three natural attenuation studies to provide information on how long some commonly handled library materials would need to be considered for quarantine prior to being put back into use. The results of Test 1 and Test 2 were released on June 22 and July 20, 2020, respectively; Test 3 began on July 10, 2020. The studies were conducted by applying the virulent SARS-CoV-2 virus on five materials held at standard room temperature (68°F to 75°F) and relative humidity conditions (30 to 50 percent). The materials in Test 3 included the five items listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Test 3 items examined.

Item	Material type	Use
Talking book, USB cassette*	Acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS), specific blend	Cartridges are used in talking book readers available through the National Library Services for the Blind and Disabled
DVD**	Polycarbonate	Digital data storage (also includes CDs). Note: A polypropylene DVD case was tested in Test 1 .
Storage bag (flexible plastic)**	Low-density polyethylene (LDPE), recycling #4	Storage, library and museum kits, gift shop packaging
Storage container (rigid plastic)**	High-density polyethylene (HDPE), recycling #2	Transporting and storage of items
Plexiglass ***	Acrylic	Display cases, partitions

Items were provided by the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled, Library of Congress*; Columbus Metropolitan Library**; and the National Archives and Records Administration***. Samples from each item were inoculated and placed on top of a stainless steel rack. In contrast to Test 2, these items were not tested in a nested (or stacked) configuration to mimic common operating procedures.

Results show that after five days of quarantine in an unstacked configuration, the SARS-CoV-2 virus was not detected on the storage bag (flexible plastic) or the DVD. The storage container (rigid plastic), plexiglass, and the USB cassette all showed detectable virus at five days. Day five was the final timepoint tested.

Compared to the results of Test 1 and 2, this data suggests that a slightly longer quarantine time for these types of plastic-based materials may be required to render SARS-CoV-2 undetectable through natural attenuation alone. Alternatively, based on the materials’ nonporous nature, suitable liquid disinfection methods may promote a more rapid decontamination than the quarantine method.

Test Methods

The items studied in Test 3 were not sterilized before testing. Battelle propagated the clinical isolate of the SARS-CoV-2 virus in-house, followed by characterization and testing to establish a certified titer. All testing was conducted within a biosafety level (BSL)-3 laboratory.

Test coupons (N=5) and blank (N=1), per timepoint, were excised from each of the five library materials in 1.9 cm × 7.6 cm–sized coupons. Stock SARS-CoV-2 was applied as 10 10- μ L droplets (100 μ L total) on each coupon and allowed to dry at ambient laboratory conditions in a Class II biosafety cabinet

(BSCII), as shown in Figure 1. Once dry, a set of test coupons were collected and processed (T0 samples), and the remainder of test coupons were moved to a Class III biosafety cabinet to maintain the desired ambient environmental conditions of $22 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ and relative humidity (RH) of $40 \pm 10\%$. Actual conditions achieved were $21.9 \pm 0.61^\circ\text{C}$ and $37.4 \pm 0.92\%$ RH. All material coupons, after inoculation and subsequent drying, were placed on top of a stainless steel rack and into the environmentally controlled chamber for testing.



Figure 1. Inoculation of SARS-CoV-2 onto Test 3 materials (left). After inoculation, the extracted test coupons were placed inside the exposure chamber to control Temp and RH (right).

At the specified time points, the test coupons were removed from the environmental chamber and placed in 50-mL conical tubes (Fisher Scientific Cat. No. 14-959-49A, Waltham, MA, USA) and extracted with 10-mL complete cell culture media (Dulbecco's Modified Eagle Medium, Corning Cat. No. 10-010-CV, Corning, NY, USA) supplemented with 2% fetal bovine serum (Gibco Cat. No. 10082147, Carlsbad, CA, USA) and penicillin-streptomycin (Gibco Cat. No. 15140122) agitated on a platform shaker at 200 rotations per minute for 15 minutes.

During the extraction process, there was a potential for chemicals from the test materials or adhesives contained within those materials, to leach into the extracted liquid. Those chemicals could have had a

deleterious cytopathic effects (CPE) on the cell culture monolayer. Since cell culture monolayers are needed for the median tissue culture infectious dose [TCID₅₀] assay to quantitatively determine infectious virus, it is important that the extractant does not have components other than the SARS-CoV-2 that will cause CPE, since this will result in false positives (i.e., presence of infectious virus).

To mitigate the potential for chemically induced CPE, the extracts were transferred to a concentrator (Spin-X UF Concentrator, Corning Cat. No. CLS431491) and centrifuged until the ~10-mL starting volume was concentrated to ~ 0.5 mL. Approximately 10 mL of fresh complete cell culture media was added to the concentrated sample (i.e., extracts) for the purpose of washing and removing any residual chemicals. The concentrator was centrifuged again and concentrated to ~ 0.5 mL. Media was added to equilibrate all washed extracts to approximately 2 mL.

The limit of quantitation (LOQ) of this assay is 13.1 TCID₅₀ units. Once below this threshold, the assay can no longer assign a quantitative value output; however, a qualitative assessment of the presence of infection can be observed through manual microscopic examination. Therefore, any values below LOQ, but positive for presence of virus, are assigned a value of 10 (indicating positive) to allow it to be resolved from 0 (indicating negative) presence of viral infection in the Vero cells.

The test sample extracts were assayed in Vero E6 cells (ATCC CRL-1586, Manassas, VA, USA), and after a 72-hour incubation at 37°C with 5% CO₂, the TCID₅₀ assay plates were observed for CPE. The test matrix covered five time points (T, or day): T₀, T₂, T₃, T₄, and T₅. As shown in Table 2 and Figure 3, at T₀, a 1.2 to 1.5 log reduction (LR) was observed on all materials. Once dry, the rate of attenuation slowed and by day 5, two materials (the storage bag and DVD) had attenuated below the level of detection for the assay, meaning no CPE was observable in the undiluted extract placed onto the Vero cells. Recoverable SARS-CoV-2 were still observable on the USB cassette, the storage container, and the plexiglass through day 5, although all were below the LOQ.

Table 2. Test 3 total log₁₀ SARS-CoV-2 recovered at days 0, 2, 3, 4, and 5.

Description	Inoculum ¹	0 Day ²	2 Day	3 Day	4 Day	5 Day
Talking book, USB cassette	4.70	3.24	1.45	1.12	0.54	0.26
DVD	4.70	3.24	1.28	1.55	1.39	< LOD
Storage bag (flexible plastic)	4.70	3.47	1.76	1.77	0.52	< LOD
Storage container (rigid plastic)	4.70	3.16	1.26	0.85	0.78	1.04
Plexiglass	4.70	3.24	1.41	1.61	0.52	0.52

¹ Total number (log₁₀) of virus applied to each material

² Total number (log₁₀) of virus recovered after ~1hr dry period

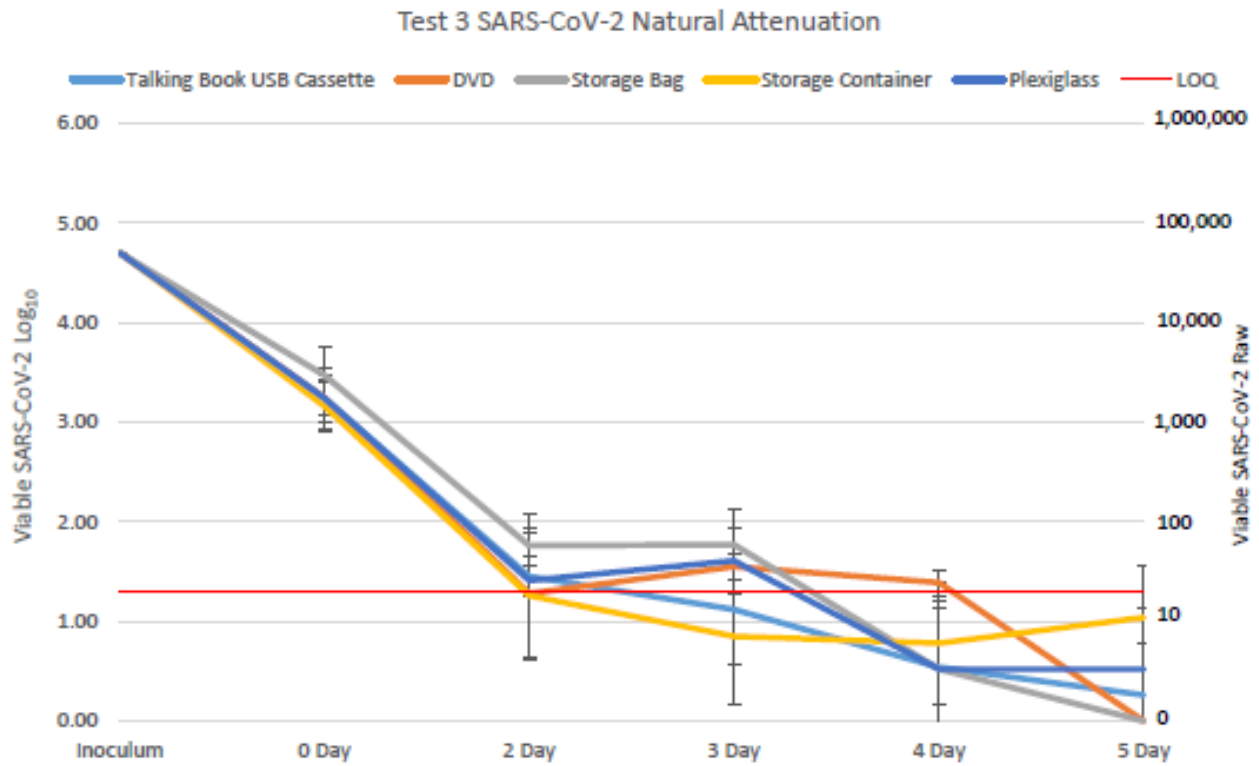


Figure 3. Test 3 attenuation of SARS-CoV-2 at days 0, 2, 3, 4, and 5, with \pm 95% confidence intervals indicated by the black vertical bars for each test date and item.