

## **Basic recommendations for libraries**

By the government's resolution of 23 April, the Council adopted a resolution on the lifting of restrictions on certain business and other activities are from Monday 27 April. This includes the resumption of the operation of libraries.

This does not mean that the library must open. The final decision is up to the specific authority, who must ensure the hygiene conditions in such a way that the library is ready for opening.

The Ministry of Culture, together with the Ministry of Health, recommends that libraries ensure compliance with the following simple hygiene rules:

1. Ensure that visitors are informed about the rules below, in particular through information leaflets at the entrance and library and by electronic communication on the library's website.
2. Ensure that library staff wear gloves when handling books and other library units.
3. Library staff and visitors wear masks.
4. At the entrance to the library, users shall disinfect their hands, with the disinfectant provided by the library operator.
5. According to an opinion from the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment, transferring infection through books is unlikely, yet it is recommended that books be quarantined in a box marked "quarantine" for 48 hours after return to a library, before lending them to another reader.
6. Visitors to the library must maintain social distancing of 2m.
7. Ensure increased hygiene of surfaces, handles, etc.
8. The toilet for the public is recommended to be closed.
9. Study rooms are recommended to be closed (depending on the type of library).

Libraries should also follow other government guidelines and measures taken in connection with crisis measures e.g. organizing events in the library (under the same conditions as actions in general).

More detailed guidance about the conditions for maintaining hygiene and ensuring the operation of libraries will be published in the following days to be published by the National Library, which has been commissioned to do so by the Minister of Culture. This methodology is now being finalised by the Central Library Council.