



November 2021

Director's Corner

Angela T. Baldree

Welcome to fall! We are closing in on two years battling the Covid-19 virus. When we originally closed the library in March of 2020, I thought, like most everyone else, that it would only be for two weeks. It still amazes me that a virus has the power to shut down the world.

The Columbus Division of Police recently released their [2020 Annual Report](#). Beginning on page 58 is a detailed history of Covid-19. The history starts in December 2019 and continues to the present. This history highlights national and local events impacted by Covid-19 as well as the social unrest felt throughout the year. It's an excellent history and well worth the read.

By the start of 2021, the virus seemed to be under control somewhat and much of the world was excited by the approval of the vaccines. But by the 4th of July, it was raging out of control again. Was that because we stopped wearing masks? I don't know, but the two do coincide with each other. I am not a scientist, but I am a librarian trained to do credible research. I'm not going to get political here, but I do want to share some of what I know based on research.

According to the FDA, "Surgical masks intended for medical purposes are considered medical devices. The mask meets certain fluid barrier protection standards and Class I or Class II flammability tests. Surgical masks are also tested for biocompatibility and are considered personal protective equipment (PPE). While surgical masks may be effective in blocking splashes and large-particle droplets, they do not provide complete protection from germs and other contaminants because of the loose fit between the surface of the mask and your face." But even the FDA concludes that wearing face masks "may" protect one from spreading and/or catching the virus. Legal professionals know well the implications of the word *may*. But here's my take on mask wearing. What is the harm in wearing it? According to the *Annals of American Thoracic Society's* article in October 2020, entitled "[Effect of Face Masks on Gas Exchange in Healthy Persons and Patients with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease](#)," "At 5 and 30 minutes, no major changes in end-tidal CO₂ or oxygen saturation as measured by pulse oximetry of clinical significance were noted at any time point by either group." They evaluated two specific groups, 15 house staff physicians without lung conditions and 15 veterans with severe chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

I equate wearing masks with measures to fight climate change. I'm not sure how

effective my contribution is, but what harm is there in trying? Recycling my trash puts no undo burden on me. I have no issue with drinking tap water out of a reusable bottle. I also request paper bags at the grocery store instead of plastic. Am I actually making a difference for the environment? I don't know, but I know I am not causing any further harm. That's how I feel about wearing a mask. It may not help prevent me from getting Covid-19 or spreading it when I cough or sneeze, but it's also not hurting anyone. I appreciate that some people have medical conditions that prevent them from wearing a mask. I am speaking in generalities.

As you may know, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners recently instituted a testing mandate for all employees. As of October 18, all employees must submit to a weekly Covid-19 test. Employees who have been vaccinated can opt out of the testing. Again, I don't know if this is the right answer. All people must make the best decisions for themselves and their families. However, I saw something on Facebook recently that struck a nerve (admittedly Facebook is not credible research). A person on a boat decides to dig through the floor of his cabin. Water flows in. Other passengers are upset. The person argues it's his own cabin, and he can do what he wants. Remember, personal choices only go so far when we're in the same boat. We've been on this boat for almost two years. If we all work together for the greater good, I know we can overcome this crisis. Be safe.

The law library now operates remotely on Fridays. We will continue to operate this way through Friday, December 31, 2021. We will remain open to patrons Monday through Thursday 8 am - 5 pm.

Patrons can access our remote resources below.

Our forms are at <https://tinyurl.com/w7eewcuu>

Our email is fcll-info@franklincountyohio.gov

Our website is <https://lawlibrary.franklincountyohio.gov/>

Remote Resources Available

Regardless of our status, our patrons can continue to use our resources remotely.



- Email us your research requests at fcll-info@franklincountyohio.gov. We usually answer requests within the hour.
- [Fastcase](#) is an online research database similar to Lexis and Westlaw. You can access this site remotely using the username FranklinCounty and password fastcase.
- [National Consumer Law Center](#). You have access to their 21 treatises on consumer law using the username FCLL and password 4Research.
- [eBooks](#) are available through our website. Several Matthew Bender handbooks are available. You only need your law library card number.
- We have [57 Legal Research Guides](#) to help you on any number of topics. These guides are compiled by our Reference Librarian and contain information vital to your topic.
- The [Ohio Legal Help Portal](#) is another great resource for finding legal assistance.
- Feel free to download any of our [legal forms](#).

Podcast Roundup

Minnie Ozbeytemur

We're coming up on the holiday season! Make sure to take a break and enjoy this time of year when we focus on gratitude—and food!



Gratitude is defined as “the quality of being thankful; readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness.” Here are several podcasts about gratitude:

[The Gratitude Podcast](#)
[Wake up with Gratitude](#)
[Life-Saving Gratitude](#)

Need help with cooking the turkey? We’ve got you covered with YouTube videos!

[America’s Test Kitchen](#)
[Bon Appetit](#)
[Butterball](#)

“I come from a family where gravy is considered a beverage.” -Erma Bombeck

Antivirus and Good Internet Hygiene

Steve Stultz, FCLL IT Coordinator

The importance of practicing good Internet hygiene can’t be understated. Attempts to hack our computers, compromise our logins and passwords, and spread nasty malware will always be with us as a persistent threat. In fact, a persistent threat can remain undetected on your computer for months before it’s detected, stealing information and spying on you.



The Human Firewall

Antivirus is important, but not the first line of defense. Our *first* line of defense is our behavior online, also called “the human firewall.”

- Don’t click on links in emails. If you absolutely must do so, make sure the link is legit by examining the link carefully before clicking. Beware of unexpected emails asking you to click a link!
- Take care when typing in a website address. Threat actors will register website names of common website misspellings, then use those bogus websites to trap you.
- Look for bogus “from” email addresses. Example: [account@dropbox.com](#) is a legit address, whereas [account@dropbox-storage.com](#) is a bogus address.
- Get some anti-phishing and safe behavior training. Many companies offer this for employees, but if yours doesn’t, or if you’re self-employed, consider getting some training on your own. Both [PhishingBox](#) and [KnowBe4](#) offer free resources and tests to check your ability to avoid phishing scams.

Antivirus

A good antivirus isn’t hard to find if you’re running Windows 10... it’s built in! Called **Windows Defender Antivirus**, it’s automatically active and protecting you as long as no other antivirus is installed. If your computer came with a third-party antivirus preinstalled as a trial, or if you installed a different antivirus app and want to switch to Windows Defender, simply uninstall the other antivirus app and restart Windows. Now Windows Defender Antivirus will protect you, and it’s free from Microsoft.

A good compliment to Windows Defender Antivirus is **Malwarebytes**. The basic version is free, but the pro version offers automatic scanning and a few other

features. It will detect and mitigate some threats that antivirus apps do not.

Updates

Keep Windows, your router firmware, and your browsers up to date. Out-of-date or unpatched software is a path for threat actors and their malware to sneak in. Most browsers have an option in the menu bar to check for updates. For example, in Chrome you click the three dot menu in the upper right, click HELP, and then click ABOUT GOOGLE CHROME. If an update is available, it will begin downloading. Chrome should update itself without you needing to check, but it can't hurt.

Unless you've turned it off, Windows will update itself. Make sure to leave your computer on and plugged in at least a couple of nights per week so Windows will do so. And always restart to apply updates when you're notified to do so in the system tray in the lower right of your screen.

Run with Minimal Windows Privileges

Your daily Windows login should be a standard account, not an administrative account. That way if malware attempts to infect you, it will have minimal access to your computer. Reserve administrator accounts for use only when you need to install new software or make other system changes. Add a dedicated admin account and change your account type to "standard" here: START BUTTON > USERS AND ACCOUNTS.

Two-Factor Logins

Make sure all of your online accounts have two-factor, multi-factor, or two-step login turned on. This is a second means to verify who you are (besides a username and password), often in the form of a code texted to your mobile device. Almost all online accounts will offer this option, and you definitely want to use it.

Backup

If all else fails and you get infected and your data gets damaged or encrypted, always have good and up-to-date backups. Keep three copies of your data including at least one copy off-site in the cloud. Good cloud backup providers are (in no particular order) [Carbonite](#), [BackBlaze](#), and [IDrive](#). [The Wirecutter has a good review](#) between the latter two mentioned.

What We're Reading

Law Library Staff Share Their Favorites

Angela - *Billy Summers* by Stephen King, *The Lions of Fifth Avenue* by Fiona Davis, and *My Year of Living Danishly* by Helen Russell

Minnie - *False Witness* by Karin Slaughter, *It Ends With Us* by Colleen Hoover, and *The Color of Magic* by Terry Pratchett

Susanna - *The Exiles* by Christina Baker Kline, *Necessary Lies* by Diane Chamberlain, and *The President's Daughter* by Bill Clinton and James Patterson



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