

# Spread Joy, Not Germs StoryCycles in the era of COVID-19

StoryCycles<sup>®</sup> is a school-to-home book lending program that provides bright green bags full of diverse books for children to share with their families. Each week, children swap out their bags in the classroom and bring a fresh new batch of books home to read.



The StoryCycles program benefits children's language, cognitive, and social-emotional development and is *not likely* to increase the spread of COVID-19 or RSV.

We want to work with you to protect the health and wellbeing of children, families, educators, and our community. We have carefully reviewed relevant research and CDC recommendations to answer common questions about how to run StoryCycles safely.

The recommendations on the reverse of this handout are based on information collected in August and October 2022 from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the American Library Association (ALA), and published research studies. Scan the QR Code for more details and updates.



[\[link\]](#)

## Spread Joy, Not Germs StoryCycles in the era of COVID-19 FAQS

### Is it safe to rotate StoryCycles book bags?

**YES!** It is very unlikely that a person will get infected with COVID or RSV by touching fabric, books or other surfaces that a sick person has touched.

**(Chances of infection are 1 in 100,000 or lower)**

To make this risk *even lower*, the best strategy for adults and children is to wash hands frequently with soap and water or alcohol-based sanitizer.

### What if my StoryCycles materials get directly contaminated?

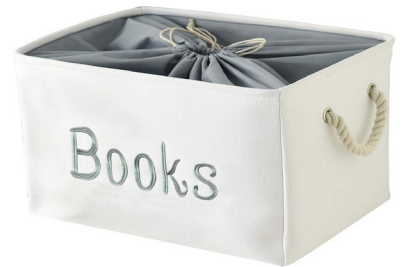
If you think someone with COVID or RSV may have coughed, sneezed or drooled on materials... cleaning is easy.

- **Books:**

Make sure they are dry, then leave them alone for **3 days** (and wash your hands).

- **StoryCycles Bags:**

Machine wash, inside out, with cold water and regular detergent (and wash your hands).



If you have more questions about StoryCycles safety please contact your Early Learning Specialist or email [info@tandembayarea.org](mailto:info@tandembayarea.org).