



# American Restroom Association

**America's Advocate for Clean, Safe, Well-Designed Public Restrooms**

*An independent, 501(c)(3) nonprofit founded in 2004 - EIN # 20-3581202.*

**ARA eZine**

**October 2020**

**Issue #2 • COVID<sup>3</sup> • New Guidelines • Now Where?  
The Reading Room: "Toilet" • Donate/Join • Now Trending**

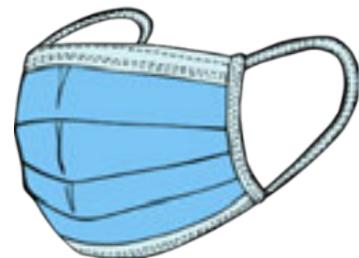


**Welcome to the 2nd Issue of the ARA's monthly eZine!**

*At the American Restroom Association, we are passionate about improving the experience of public restrooms in the United States. If you are receiving this newsletter, then we believe that you are, too! We all know that we are inundated with things that fill our inbox. Our promise is that we will do our best to keep our new eZine a quick read that gives you a fast scan of information that is new and valuable, and provides links for a deeper dive, should you be interested. Be sure to forward on to like-minded individuals and [let us know](#) what you think. And, PS, if you've got an interesting suggestion for a name, we're all ears!  
- Tim Pyle, Executive Director*

## **COVID, COVID, COVID!**

The ARA mailbox has been overflowing with questions about the safety of public restrooms over the past seven months. Evidently, the same has been seen over at the Washington Post. Check out the latest thinking from their reporter, Teddy Amenabar, as published on October 15, 2020:

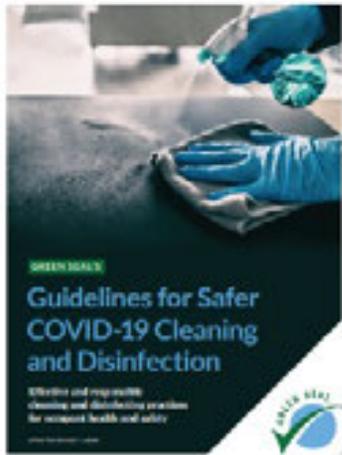


***"In the before times, public restrooms were already seen as tiled dens for***

germs. Now, we're wearing masks, avoiding crowds and packing hand sanitizer wherever we go. The Post spoke with infectious-disease experts and epidemiologists about what you should consider when entering a public bathroom." [Read on . . .](#)



## New Disinfecting Guidelines for workplaces and schools from the nonprofit Green Seal.



*"Green Seal's Guidelines for Safer COVID-19 Cleaning and Disinfection, intended for facility, property and housekeeping managers, provides actionable guidelines for the safe and effective cleaning and disinfection of occupied spaces. These five best practices are based on the latest scientific understanding of the particular characteristics of the COVID-19 virus. They also reflect Green Seal's expertise in setting science-based standards for high-performance cleaning products, principles, and practices that reduce unnecessary use of hazardous chemicals and promote safer and healthier indoor air." [Read on . . .](#)*

## I'm out, now I need to, ya know, go. . . Now what? Now where?

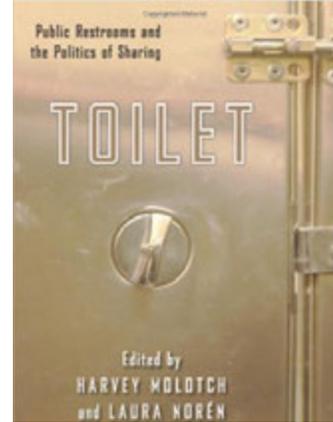
Several other countries (Australia, for one) have government-supported apps or other systems for helping their citizens find publicly-supported restrooms. Americans, of course, not so lucky. Various entrepreneurs and companies have taken a stab at filling this need. The ARA has long had links on its website to [Restroom Apps](#). We'll keep trying to stay ahead. For now, here's a link to a recent article on how to "Find a Bathroom Online" posted by ["verywellhealth"](#) featuring a few offerings.



**BUT WAIT!** What about just asking Google to "tell me where the nearest public restroom is"? We've learned that Google can be just as hit or miss as various apps. If your permissions are set correctly, Google may ask you from time-to-time to update information about a place you just visited. Questions can vary

from store times, best entrances, to whether or not the parking and doorways are handicapped accessible. Let's put the power of the ARA to work! **Learn how to give feedback to Google Maps by clicking [this link](#).** If more people suggest getting better bathroom info added there, the better off we'll all be when we are out and hear the call!

Many people ask us, "So, what's in your reading rooms?" Right now, we're reading "Toilet" (New York University, 2010) edited by ARA Board member Harvey Molotch and Laura Norén. Part history lesson, part call-to-action, and all eye-opening, Molotch and Norén have curated a wide-ranging and fascinating study of something we all experience, yet few discuss. The tone runs the gamut from scholarly, ironic, and comical - and back again. Available on Amazon by clicking the book graphic.



## Donate & Join Today!

In many respects, the American Restroom Association is like a 16-year-old "start up." Through a generous grant from its sibling nonprofit, the [International Paruresis Association](#), the ARA is embarking on an ambitious growth plan for 2021. In motion even before COVID-19, the ARA is poised to expand the voice of Americans in demanding access to clean, safe, and well-designed public restrooms. Won't you join us on this quest with a membership gift of at least \$50? Click the button below to make your gift through our official giving portal, Network for Good.



## Now Trending:

*A few quick hits from the web and interesting items from the ARA Inbox.*

*Technology continues to advance ways to enhance restroom cleanliness and availability. Check out these two solutions using your always-with-you phone!*

**FlushCheck:** Restroom monitoring and feedback via smartphone. "Guests send an anonymous SMS about the specific issue (maybe with photo). Staff receive an alert via email or text, and their actions are then tracked to ensure the issue is fixed quickly. The guest is thanked and the feedback loop is closed." Click the graphics below for more info.

**Good2Go:** a "completely keyless, touchless & mobile enabled with virtual queueing, ideal for social distancing and helping customers feel more confident returning to retail environments." Click the graphic below for details.



## RESTROOM ISSUE?

Please let us know.

THERE ARE 3 WAYS TO INFORM US:

Scan the Code



Online



Tellusnow.mobi  
Code: 222

Text/SMS



Text: 222 to  
(801) 217-2993



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### UpLock:

How about a hands-free door operating solution? Innovation at work!



### Heads Up Lock Company:

Lights to show restroom occupancy.

### SafeCount from Irisys:

Count people as they enter and exit the restroom to limit occupancy to safe levels and avoid overcrowding.



*Watch this space for more innovations for both consumer and commercial applications.  
Have a new solution? [Contact us!](#)*

See what's happening and follow the ARA on our social sites:



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**About American Restroom Association (ARA):** a nonprofit founded in 2004, ARA advocates for the availability of clean, safe, and well-designed public restrooms. Accomplishments include successfully advocating for enforcement of and revisions to the International Plumbing Code, congressional testimony on gender equity in public restrooms in US Federal Buildings, and representing the USA in educating international audiences at Summits and Conferences of the World Toilet Organization (WTO). ARA brings together an independent and

*multidisciplinary team from architecture, engineering, education, academia, and social work. Learn more at <https://americanrestroom.org/>.*

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