

Temporary Mask Policy
Approved February 24, 2021

The Watertown Public Library Board of Trustees upholds the rights of our patrons to access library resources and maintain a safe environment.

To continue serving our patrons during this difficult time, while placing the health and safety of our community at the forefront, the Library Board of Trustees has adopted a Temporary Safety Practices Policy in response to Covid-19.

Therefore, pursuant to Wis. Stat. §43.58, the Library Board hereby adopts the following temporary mask policy:

1. DEFINITIONS.

- a. “Enclosed space” means a confined space open to the public where individuals congregate.
- b. “Face covering” means a piece of cloth or other material that is worn to cover the nose and mouth completely. A “face covering” includes but is not limited to a bandana, a cloth face mask, a disposable or paper mask, a neck gaiter, or a religious face covering. A “face covering” does not include face shields, mesh masks, masks with holes or openings, or masks with vents.
- c. “Physical distancing” means maintaining at least six feet of distance from other individuals who are not members of your household or living unit.

2. FACE COVERING REQUIRED. Every individual, age five and older, on the library premises shall wear a face covering if both of the following apply:

- a. The individual is indoors or in an enclosed space, and;
- b. Another person or persons who are not members of individual’s household or living unit are present in the same room or enclosed space.

Face coverings are strongly recommended in all other settings, including outdoors when it is not possible to maintain physical distancing.

3. EXCEPTIONS.

- a. Individuals who are otherwise required to wear a face covering may remove the face covering in the following situations:
 - i. While eating or drinking.

- ii. When communicating with an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing and communication cannot be achieved through other means.
 - iii. While obtaining a service that requires the temporary removal of the face covering.
 - iv. While sleeping.
 - v. While a single individual is giving a religious, political, media, educational, artistic, cultural, musical, or theatrical presentation for an audience, the single speaker may remove the face covering when actively speaking. While the face covering is removed, the speaker must remain at least 6 feet away from all other individuals at all times.
 - vi. When engaging in work where wearing a face covering would create a risk to the individual, as determined by government safety guidelines.
 - vii. When necessary to confirm the individual's identity, including when entering a bank, credit union, or other financial institution.
 - viii. When federal or state law or regulations prohibit wearing a face covering.
- b. In accordance with CDC guidance, the following individuals are exempt from the face covering requirement in Section 2:
- i. Children between the ages of 2 and 5 are encouraged to wear a mask when physical distancing is not possible. The CDC does not recommend masks for children under the age of 2.
 - ii. Individuals who have trouble breathing.
 - iii. Individuals who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance.
 - iv. Individuals with medical conditions, intellectual or developmental disabilities, mental health conditions, or other sensory sensitivities that prevent the individual from wearing a face covering.

This policy will be in place until the Library Board of Trustees votes to rescind the temporary policy. If any provision of this policy or its application to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid, the remainder of the policy, including the application to such part or provision to other individuals or circumstance, shall not be affected and shall continue in full force and effect. To this end, the provisions of this policy are severable.

We remind you that the library also offers the following services:

Help us keep the library open! Thank you for honoring these measures, which are designed to keep our patrons and staff safe, while allowing access to the library.