



# WESTCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

## RESOLUTION REGARDING FACE MASKS IN LIBRARY BUILDINGS

**Whereas:** On March 6, 2020, Indiana Governor Holcomb issued Executive Order 20-02, Declaration of Public Health Emergency for Coronavirus Disease 2019 Outbreak;

**Whereas:** Executive Order 20-02 declared that a public health disaster emergency exists in Indiana attributable to the novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”);

**Whereas:** Executive Order 20-02 designated the Indiana State Department of Health as the lead state agency to coordinate emergency response activities among the various state agencies and local governments;

**Whereas:** On April 29, 2021, Indiana Governor Holcomb issued Executive Order 21-11, Fourteenth Renewal of Public Health Emergency Declaration for the Covid-19 Outbreak, extending the declaration of the public health emergency to at least May 31, 2021;

**Whereas:** On April 29, 2021, Indiana Governor Holcomb issued Executive Order 21-12, Continuing of Modified County-Based Measures and Restrictions Based on the Impact and Spread of Covid-19;

**Whereas:** On May 14, 2021, the [Porter County Health Department aligned its recommendations with those of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) in regards to vaccination and mask wearing, in that it is now allowable for those who are fully vaccinated (defined as two weeks after the final dose in a vaccine series) for Covid-19 to be indoors or outdoors without a face covering, and reiterated that vaccination for Covid-19 is extremely effective in preventing infection and spread of Covid-19, and stated that public and private entities may continue to request that patrons wear face coverings, and requested that all parties be respectful of those organizations that continue to request mask wear in their facilities;

**Whereas:** The Westchester Public Library and its Board of Trustees are committed to protecting the health and safety of Library staff, patrons and all Porter County citizens;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Westchester Public Library, that:**

This Resolution supersedes the Resolution Regarding Face Masks in Library Buildings dated August 13, 2020;

**In all indoor public, common, and shared areas of Library buildings, Library employees, patrons, and visitors must adhere to the following guidelines:**

Face masks are **required** for:

- All Westchester Public Library employees
- **Unvaccinated** adult patrons/visitors
- **Unvaccinated** child patrons/visitors ages 2-11
- Both parties during any one-on-one assistance from Library staff when social distancing is not possible

Face masks are **not required** for:

- **Vaccinated** adult patrons/visitors
- **Vaccinated** child patrons/visitors ages 12+
- Children under the age of 2

**Face masks** must completely cover the nose and mouth, and face masks containing cuts or holes or that are made of loosely knit or otherwise open fabrics or materials such as, but not limited to, mesh, lace, netting, or yarn (crochet) are not considered an acceptable face mask/facial covering;

The Library will honor current ADA guidelines and make reasonable modifications to allow people with disabilities who are unable to wear a mask to access library services and resources (accommodations may include and are not restricted to wearing a face shield, contactless curbside pickup, free outdoor WiFi, video or telephone reference, and materials selection);

This policy shall remain in effect for the duration of the public health emergency as declared by the Governor, and/or until modified by the Director of the Westchester Public Library based upon information and data regarding Covid-19 cases and vaccinations in Porter County (any modifications by the Director to this Resolution shall be reported to the Westchester Public Library Board of Trustees), and/or until revised or repealed by the Westchester Public Library Board of Trustees;

This resolution is effective beginning July 1, 2021.

**ALL OF WHICH HAVING BEEN RESOLVED AND ADOPTED** by the Westchester Public Library on this 10th day of June, 2021.