



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: Executive Order 20-35 states, in part, that “State employees, contractors and vendors must wear face coverings in all indoor public areas of state buildings, offices and facilities unless under the age of two or where an existing underlying health condition prohibits the wearing of a face covering”;

Whereas: The #MaskUpHoosiers campaign promoted by the Indiana State Department of Health is quoted as follows: “Indiana is slowly reopening for business, but the fight against COVID-19 is far from over. Wearing a face mask is one of the simplest, most effective ways to slow the spread of the virus, but we need everyone to do their part to keep our state safe. That’s why we are asking all Hoosiers to mask up — and speak up about how wearing your mask can save lives”;

Whereas: On June 2, 2020, the [Porter County Commissioners reopened government buildings](#) to the public, and required every member of the public to wear masks while inside County buildings, and has also required County employees to wear masks in any public/common space within any County building;

Whereas: The ADA does allow restrictions when an individual would pose a direct threat to the health or safety of others. As of March 2020, the EEOC has declared that the COVID-19 pandemic meets the direct threat standard, based on guidance from the CDC and public health authorities regarding the risk of community spread and institution of restrictions;

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:

Library employees, patrons and visitors must wear face coverings properly in all indoor public, common, or shared areas of Library buildings unless under the age of two;

Facial coverings must completely cover the nose and mouth, and masks containing

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 facial covering;

The Library will honor current ADA guidelines and make reasonable modifications to allow people with disabilities that are unable to wear a mask to access library services and resources. Accommodations may include and are not restricted to contactless curbside pickup, 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, for the duration of the recommendation to wear masks by the Indiana State Department of Health, and/or until this Resolution is revised and/or repealed by the Westchester Public Library Board of Trustees;

This resolution is effective upon passage.

ALL OF WHICH HAVING BEEN RESOLVED AND ADOPTED by the Westchester Public Library on this 13th day of August, 2020.