



## JEFFERSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

### **POLICY: Patron Guidelines for Building Use During COVID-19 Adopted by Library Board: April 14, 2021**

Libraries are busy places that serve the entire community, including populations that are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19. Libraries are also used in ways that carry the potential for respiratory diseases to spread easily: they invite people to linger, hang out, and gather while sharing spaces, equipment, and materials. This means that while COVID-19 continues to pose a significant public health risk, certain library services will be restricted and patrons will be asked to comply with all safety measures.

As always, the safety of the employees and the citizens of the community are of utmost importance and this policy strives to provide the maximum amount of library services while maintaining reasonable safety measures. This policy is created referencing guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, the Jefferson County Health Department, and the Department of Public Instruction, Division for Libraries and Technology.

To help ensure the safety of our employees and patrons, visitors to the building must adhere to the following seven categories:

#### **1. Mask and Face Coverings:**

Patrons age 5 and older are strongly encouraged to wear a face mask while in the library.

- Masks may be reusable (cloth) or disposable (paper)
- Masks must be worn over the mouth and nose at all times
- Costume masks, and coverings with holes, mesh, or lace are not acceptable

#### Modifications:

For those who have a medical condition that prevents them from wearing a mask, do not wish to wear a mask, or who do not want to enter the building, the Library has made the following modifications available:

- Allow a person to wear a face shield, scarf, or loose face covering instead of a face mask;
- Offer curbside appointments for printing, copying, or faxing during regular operating hours;
- Allow patrons to order online with No Contact Pick Up in a timely manner;
- Allow patrons to order by phone with No Contact Pick Up in a timely manner;
- Offer appointments by telephone or video calls;

- Provide guidance on alternative sources for Internet connectivity, including our circulating Wi-Fi hotspots.

## **2. Social Distancing:**

All patrons and staff must observe social distancing guidelines. For un-masked patrons requiring assistance from library staff, the patron is required to maintain 6 feet of distance between themselves and library staff or wear a mask.

## **3. Reduced Capacity and Shorter Visits:**

The Library will operate at reduced capacity and patrons are strongly encouraged to limit their time in the building. Patrons may need to wait to enter the building until capacity numbers allow entrance. Large group gatherings will not be permitted. Public use of the library meeting room will be limited to smaller group numbers based on current recommendations for group gatherings.

## **5. Hygiene:**

Proper hygiene is essential for everyone's safety. Hand sanitizer is available throughout the building. Patrons are asked to wash hands frequently and thoroughly with soap and water, to sneeze/cough into their elbow or a tissue to be disposed of immediately, and to avoid touching their face.

## **6. Feeling Sick:**

Patrons with COVID-19, fever, or other symptoms of COVID-19 may not enter the library. Patrons who display symptoms in the library may be asked to leave.

## **7. Reporting:**

If you or someone in your household has been diagnosed with COVID-19 and you spent time in the library prior to the diagnosis, please report this fact to the Director. They will take appropriate action and contact the Jefferson County Health Department for guidance on disinfection, disclosure to exposed parties, and quarantine response.