

DOWNINGTOWN LIBRARY COMPANY COVID-19 PANDEMIC POLICY

The COVID-19 Pandemic Policy has been adopted by the Downingtown Library Board of Trustees in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in order to continue to provide services to our community. The practices outlined below shall remain in effect for the duration of the pandemic or until amended by the Board. The principle consideration in adopting this policy is the health and safety of library staff and patrons. The library will monitor and follow the US Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidance for health and safety practices.

The library has enacted enhanced cleaning and sanitizing processes and procedures. High-touch surfaces are sanitized frequently throughout the day.

- The library will follow the CDC guidance for wearing masks. The library will post the current guidelines in various locations throughout the library to inform patrons.
 - When applicable, and for the purpose of mask wearing, the library will follow the CDC's definition of "vaccinated."
- People who are sick or have a fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher shall not enter the library even if they have face covering. By entering the library, patrons are confirming that they are not sick and do not have a fever. If a patron is exhibiting illness-like symptoms, a staff member may use their discretion to request that the patron leave the library when they deem it is in the best interest of the library and fellow patrons.
- Library users might be asked to practice social distancing as per the CDC guidelines when entering and exiting the library and during their visit.
- Children under the age of 10 must always be accompanied by and under the supervision of their own parent or caregiver.
- Restrooms might not be available for patron use at certain times during the pandemic, or modifications to usage might be limited, such as, one person / family at a time.
- Meeting room spaces might not be available for use.
- Library staff reserves the right to cancel programs or modify the location, schedule, delivery, number of participants or availability.

When the library is open for public access:

- The number of people simultaneously in the library and the duration of their stay might be limited and that information will be posted at the entrance to the library.
- While in the building, library users will practice good hand hygiene by using hand sanitizer.
- Food and drink might not be allowed at times in the library.

Failure to follow these guidelines might result in temporary or permanent expulsion from the library by staff and/or denial of privileges by the Library Director. Library staff will inform the customer who has been expelled or denied privileges of the consequences. Any customer whose privileges have been denied may have the decision reviewed by the Board of Trustees. (per DLC Behavior Policy) The existing Behavior Policy remains in effect.

The library Board of Trustees reserves the right to make adjustments to this policy.

References:

Downingtown Library Behavior Policy, January 17, 2019 Amended

Center for Disease Control COVID-19 Guidelines

PA Department of Health COVID-19 Guidelines

“Framework for Reopening Public Libraries” from Office of Commonwealth Libraries

“Order of the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health Directing Public Health Safety Measures for Businesses Permitted to Maintain In-person Operations” (April 19, 2020)

“Order of the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health Directing Building Safety Measures” (April 6, 2020)

Reviewed and Revised December 17, 2020

Adopted August 20, 2020

Revised May 19, 2021

Revised August 18, 2021