

## **Union Library of Hatboro Library Mask Wearing Policy**

Reporting on evidence for effectiveness of cloth face coverings, the Centers for Disease control states that “cloth face coverings are recommended as a simple barrier to help prevent respiratory droplets from traveling into the air and onto other people when the person wearing the cloth face covering coughs, sneezes, talks, or raises their voice. This is called source control. This recommendation is based on what we know about the role respiratory droplets play in the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19, paired with emerging evidence from clinical and laboratory studies that shows cloth face coverings reduce the spray of droplets when worn over the nose and mouth. COVID-19 spreads mainly among people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet), so the use of cloth face coverings is particularly important in settings where people are close to each other or where social distancing is difficult to maintain.”

**In Pennsylvania, the wearing of facemasks or other nose/mouth covering in indoor spaces, such as a Library facility, is mandatory.** See Guidance for Businesses Permitted to Operate During the COVID-19 Disaster Emergency to Ensure the Safety and Health of Employees and the Public (“Require all customers to wear masks while on the premises.”) The wearing of masks is also required by Montgomery County.

The Office of Commonwealth Libraries authorizes the Board of Union Library to develop a policy for handling library reopening safety and mask wearing. The Board has determined the following requirements:

1. If you have tested positive for the COVID-19 virus within 14 days, been exposed to it, or have symptoms, please make use of our online resources from your home.
2. All persons entering the Library must wear a face covering and maintain social distancing (a minimum six-foot distance from all other persons). Face coverings must comply with guidelines from the state Department of Health and must be properly worn at all times.
3. Children under the age of two are exempt from wearing a face covering, but must be closely monitored at all times by their parent or guardian. Union Library encourages patrons to arrange for childcare for children under age two when visiting the library.
4. A disposable face mask will be provided free of charge to individuals who do not have a face mask.
5. Reasonable accommodations such as contactless pickup and online resources are available to those who are medically prevented from or decline to wear a face covering. Entrance into the library without a face covering is not a valid accommodation.
6. Those refusing to properly wear a face covering, or to maintain six-foot distance will be required to leave the Library. If a person refuses to leave the Library for not following this policy, police may be contacted. This could result in a ban from the Library for a specified period of time.
7. Patrons who exhibit adversarial behavior that is argumentative with staff or other patrons will be subject to the general [Patron Conduct Policy](#). Patrons will be asked to leave until they comply with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania requirements, and guidelines in place to protect other community members and staff.
8. This policy shall be enforced until the Pennsylvania Department of Health or other authorities determines that it is no longer required.

Approved by the Union Library Board of Directors July 21, 2020.