



**Discover. Connect. Engage.**

# BOARD POLICIES

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## **COVID-19 Pandemic Policy**

Category: Operational

Approved: July 29, 2020

The Rocky River Public Library is committed to adapting quickly and efficiently to anticipate and meet community needs. In this role, the Library is dedicated to the protection of all our community members and employees, including those at higher risk of complication from COVID-19.

### **Face Coverings**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Ohio Department of Health (ODH) have advised the use of face coverings by all individuals in public to help slow the community spread of COVID-19. Face coverings are a measure intended to reduce the percentage of virus-containing droplets from an asymptomatic wearer expelled into the environment in which others are present. The public health guidance was determined for the protection of employees and other patrons.

The Rocky River Public Library requires that all patrons, staff, vendors, and visitors wear a face covering that covers their mouth and nose at all times while inside the library or while attending library events.

This requirement does not apply to children under the age of 2. Reasonable accommodations will be made for patrons that object to wearing face coverings for health, disability, or religious reasons. Reasonable accommodations will be identified through an interactive dialog with the patron. Exceptions for library staff, vendors, and contractors will be made as outlined by the Governor of Ohio's Stay Safe Ohio Order and subsequent related orders.

### **Ohio Public Health Advisory System**

The Ohio Department of Health has developed the Ohio Public Health Advisory System to empower individuals, businesses, local governments, and public institutions to take appropriate actions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic by assessing weekly the risk level of each county in Ohio.

The Library will swiftly respond to changing levels in Cuyahoga County as follows:

Level 1-3 – Open for 30-minute browsing and limited computer access and in-Library service.

Level 4 – Library offers remote services and Curbside pick-up only. Building is closed to public access.

The Library will continue to adhere to evolving CDC and ODH guidelines, and additional Governor of Ohio mandates as required.

**Occupancy**

The Library has modified areas to accommodate the necessity for physical distancing and increased sanitation. Tables and chairs have been temporarily removed. Some areas of the Library, including all meeting rooms and some restrooms, remain closed to patrons.

Following Responsible RestartOhio guidelines, the Library has established a maximum patron occupancy within the Library of 56 patrons. This limit was established in consultation with the Rocky River Fire Department. Patrons shall limit their visit to the Library to 30 minutes or less.

**Patrons Under 15**

For reasons of safety and proper oversight during the COVID-19 pandemic, a parent, guardian, or adult caretaker must accompany any patron under the age of 15 the entire time such patron is in the Library building.

**Violations of Policy**

Any violation of this policy that is deemed as threatening others with exposure to COVID-19 will result in removal from the Library and could be subject to criminal charges under Ohio Law.

**Duration of Policy**

This policy shall remain in place until such a time when the state(s) of emergency related to the COVID-19 Pandemic have been lifted by the State of Ohio or Ohio Department of Health, or until such time that the Library Administration, following guidance from the CDC or ODH, determines that these actions are no longer recommended to help reduce the community spread of COVID-19.