

A RESOLUTION OF THE PORTER COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM 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: On July 1, 2020, Indiana Governor Holcomb issued Executive Order 20-34, Fourth Renewal of Public Health Emergency Declaration for the COVID-19 Outbreak;

Whereas: On July 1, 2020, Indiana Governor Holcomb issued Executive Order 20-35, Back on Track Indiana: Stage 4.5;

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: As of July 15, 2020, the Indiana State Department of Health website regarding COVID-19 (<https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/>) has a separate link asking all Hoosiers to wear face masks (<https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/maskuphoosiers/index.htm>);

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 1, 2020, the Porter County Commissioners reopened government buildings to the public, but has 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 Porter County Public Library System 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 Porter County Public Library System, that:

- 1) Library employees, patrons and visitors must wear face coverings in all indoor public/common areas of Library buildings, offices and facilities unless under the age of two (2) or where an existing underlying health condition prohibits the wearing of a face covering.
- 2) 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 for Hoosiers and/or until this Resolution is revised and/or repealed by the Trustees of the Porter County Public Library System.
- 3) This resolution is effective upon passage.

ALL OF WHICH HAVING BEEN RESOLVED AND ADOPTED by the Porter County Public Library System this 15th day of July, 2020.

PORTER COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM BOARD

Stacey Whitten, President

Attest: _____
Paul Knauff, Secretary