

## Resolution

**Whereas** an ongoing public health emergency as a result of the coronavirus pandemic was declared by Gov. Eric Holcomb on March 6, 2020 with Executive Order 20-02, and

**Whereas** Gov. Eric Holcomb notes that masks should be worn and social distancing should be observed to help contain the spread of the virus, and

**Whereas** Porter County health officials suggest that residents wear masks and socially distance, and

**Whereas** Porter County Government requires visitors wear masks and socially distance, and

**Whereas** COVID cases persist in Porter County, and

**Whereas** CDC recommends social distancing guidelines of at least six feet of distance, urges the proper usage of face coverings to help stop the spread of COVID-19 and has provided guidance for the proper and effective use of face coverings during this pandemic;

**Whereas** CDC recommends facemasks continue to be worn by those who have received the COVID-19 vaccine or who have recovered from a COVID-19 infection;

**Whereas** ADA does allow restrictions when an individual would pose a direct threat to the health or safety of others. As of March 2020, the EEOC has declared that the COVID-19 pandemic meets the direct threat standard, based on guidance from the CDC and public health authorities regarding the risk of community spread and institution of restrictions;

**Whereas** 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 Library employees, trustees, patrons, and visitors must observe social distancing and wear face coverings properly in all indoor public, common, or shared areas of Library buildings unless under the age of two; Facial coverings must completely cover the nose and mouth, and masks containing holes or that are made of loosely knit or otherwise open fabrics or materials such as, but not limited to, plastic face shields, mesh, lace, netting, or yarn (crochet) are not considered an acceptable facial covering;

The Library will honor current ADA guidelines and make reasonable modifications to allow people with disabilities that are unable to wear a mask to access library services and resources. Accommodations may include and are not restricted to contactless curbside pickup, outdoor wifi, video or telephone reference, and materials selection;

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, CDC, and/or until this Resolution is revised and/or repealed by the Porter County Public Library System Board of Trustees;

Adopted this 20th day of January 2021.

Aye

Nay