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PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT POLICY

1. Purpose

The Newark Public Library Board of Trustees is empowered to take the steps necessary to serve the community under its mission with the health and safety of the library staff and patrons as the top priority. Therefore, the Board of Trustees has adopted this Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Policy.

The primary goals of Newark Public Library's Personal Protective Equipment Policy are to:

- Introduce guidelines for PPE use for patrons wishing to use the library's services
- Provide reasonable access to library services to all community members while still protecting the library's staff and other patrons
- Reduce the risk of infection in, around, and on library facilities, materials, and equipment for library staff and patrons

Newark Public Library staff has the authority to enforce these measures like any other of the library's policies.

2. Acceptable Behavior

- A mask or face covering is required at all times for all visitors (over 2 years of age) and staff in the library, regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status.
- Individuals who cannot medically tolerate the wearing of a mask or face covering are asked to contact the library before visiting so reasonable accommodation(s) for services can be made.
- Masks or face coverings may be cloth or homemade so long as they comply with the guidance outlined in Executive Order 202.17 or future executive guidance.
- Masks or face coverings should completely cover the mouth and nose in accordance with guidelines issued by the Center for Disease Control (CDC).
- Patrons are not permitted to approach other patrons to comment on or question their PPE practices. Concerns regarding the practices of other patrons should be directed to the library staff only.
- Patrons refusing to abide by this policy will be subject to the corrective action steps, including possible banning, as outlined in the library's Code of Conduct.

3. Authority & Evaluation

This policy and related procedures will be enforced under all current and future New York State Executive Orders, including those pertaining to PPE, workforce and occupancy reductions, and social distancing guidelines. The practices in this policy may be modified as needed to conform with such Executive Orders, as well as mandates and guidelines from the CDC, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and local government agencies.

Questions or concerns regarding this policy should be brought to the library Director.

*ADOPTED by the Newark Public Library Board of Trustees May 21, 2020
Amended July 8, 2021, August 12, 2021, September 21, 2021*