

Peabody Institute Library
FACE COVERINGS POLICY

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE:

In alignment with Commonwealth of Massachusetts and CDC guidance, face coverings are required for all individuals over the age of two while in the buildings and outdoor areas of the Peabody Institute Main Library, South Branch Library, and West Branch Library, in order to address asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic transmission (transmission from infected individuals who may or may not have symptoms) of COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status. Face coverings must cover a visitor's mouth and nose simultaneously.

Visitors are expected to have their own face covering. If they do not have one, we will have a limited supply available.

Visitors who cannot wear a face covering should contact the library to discuss other ways the library can meet your service needs.

This policy will remain in place until guidance from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts lifts the current restrictions.

Adopted March 1, 2021 by the Peabody Institute Library Board of Trustees.

COMMON QUESTIONS

Why are we required to wear face coverings?

COVID-19 is still circulating in Massachusetts. Therefore, we must assume anyone, visitors or staff, can be exposed at any time. Requiring face coverings in addition frequent hand hygiene and effective physical distancing will help protect everyone from the viral spread of the disease. The policy will reduce the risk of transmission from anyone who may be asymptomatic but are carrying the disease.

Do I have to wear the face covering the entire time I am at the Library?

Our goal is to protect everyone in the community from the spread of the virus. This policy is meant to accompany adherence to physical distancing and practicing frequent hand hygiene. Face coverings should be worn at all times.

Will a face covering really protect me?

The face coverings are intended to stop the community spread of the virus. Face coverings are only one of several health and safety practices that, when combined, are known to greatly reduce virus transmission.

Do I need to wear a mask and avoid close contact with others in the Library, even after receiving 2 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes. Everyone should continue using all the tools available to help stop this pandemic as we learn more about how COVID-19 vaccines work. Experts are also looking at how many people get vaccinated and how the virus is spreading in communities. Research is currently underway to determine whether getting a COVID-19 vaccine will prevent you from spreading the virus that causes COVID-19 to other people, even if you don't get sick yourself.

How long will this policy be in effect?

Until guidance from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts lifts the current restrictions.

Sources: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html#Spread> and
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html#>