

## Schuylkill Valley Community Library COVID-19 Pandemic Face Covering Policy

1. Wearing a mask in the Schuylkill Valley Community Library is mandatory during the COVID-19 Pandemic with the exception of patrons under the age of 2.
  - A. If the library user states they are not able to wear a face mask for medical reasons, the library will not make any medical inquiry into the medical reasons. The library will follow the below procedures in this case.
  - B. If the library user states they will not wear a mask for personal freedom reasons, the library will follow the below procedures.
2. The library will engage in an interactive modification/alternative channel process for persons who cannot or will not wear a mask. Possible modifications/alternative channels include, but are not limited to:
  - A. Allow the library user to wear a scarf, bandana, “gator” type face covering, other type of loose face covering, or a full-face shield.
  - B. Offer the library user a library provided face mask which they can take with them when they leave. The library provided face mask shall then be used during any future visit by the patron.
  - C. Materials Checkout:
    1. Materials can be searched in the online library catalog from a computer or other device. Holds can be placed on materials which may be picked up curbside.
    2. If the library user does not have access to a computer, the user may call the library and a staff member will place holds for them. Materials may be picked up curbside.
    3. The library user may use the library’s collection of e-materials and bypass using physical materials entirely.
    4. If the library user has a specific list with accurate titles (not to exceed three items) for checkout and the library user has a library card, the library will look up the items, check them out and bring them to the patron for curbside pick-up.
  - D. New Library Cards:
    1. The library user may apply online for a library card, which may be picked up curbside.
    2. The library user may apply in person, but must remain outside the building and at least 6 ft of social distance must be maintained during the entire process. The following procedure will apply:
      - a. User completes the application outside.
      - b. Staff will come outside to receive the application and the user’s photo identification.
      - c. Staff will complete the registration and bring the ID and library card outside to the user.

- E. Computer Use:
  - 1. Library staff will print out requested items received by email. These printouts may be picked up and paid for curbside.
  - 2. The library’s Wi-Fi signal extends outside the building. The patron may access the Wi-Fi on their own device outdoors or in their vehicle.
- F. The library user is free to decline any modification/alternative channel offered by the library. However, if the library user proposes a reasonable modification that “fundamentally alters” the nature of the library’s service, program, activity, or facility or constitutes an “undue burden” to the library, the library need not agree to such modification.
- G. If after the interactive modification/alternative channel process produces no agreement between the library and the library user, the library will not grant access to the library user. Entry into the library without a mask is a direct threat to the employees and other library users and negatively impacts the safe operation of the library.
  - 1. Under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the First Amendment to the Constitution, the library is permitted to deny services for the following two reasons:
    - a. 28 C.F.R 35.130(h) provides: A public entity may impose legitimate safety requirements necessary for the safe operation of its services, programs, or activities.
    - b. 28 C.F.R 35.139 (a) provides: Title II of the ADA does not require a public entity to permit an individual to participate in or benefit from the services, programs, or activities of that public entity when that individual poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others.

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Solomon Lausch, President

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Kathy Gerber-Fegely, Secretary

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