

## POLICY ON ACCEPTABLE LIBRARY CONDUCT DURING PANDEMIC/HEALTH EMERGENCY

This policy is intended to supplement and supersede the customary Policy on Acceptable Library Conduct when there is a health-related State of Emergency declared by local, state or federal government officials.

This policy has been developed to minimize situations in which any library user interferes with the legitimate library business of other users and staff, to protect the safety of all library users and staff, and to protect library property. Library users shall be engaged in activities associated with the use of the public library while in the building.

Library users shall respect the rights of other users.

Library users shall follow personal hygiene and social distancing guidelines as established by library administration and/or local, state or federal officials. These guidelines may include, but not be limited to, facemasks, gloves, etc. Guidelines are subject to change as new or different information becomes available during said pandemic or other health emergency.

Library users shall not congregate or linger in common areas, meeting rooms, study rooms, lobby or cafe.

No public area of the library will be designated for meetings and no specific areas can be shut off from public access to conduct a meeting.

Examples of Unacceptable Library User conduct (this is not an all-inclusive list but rather examples) are:

- Damaging or stealing library materials or property
- Eating or drinking, except in specially designated locations and time periods, as permitted by the Director
- Smoking and Vaping
- Using the Library to sleep
- Playing audio equipment so that others can hear it
- Bringing animals into the Library, except when needed to assist a person with a disability or as permitted by the Library Director
- Misusing a restroom (e.g., as a laundry or bathing facility)
- Leaving a child unattended in the Library (see Unattended Children Policy)
- Leaving vulnerable adults unsupervised
- Solicitation of contributions or signatures, unless directly related to Library services or activities
- Conducting surveys without the permission of the Library administration
- Photography on the library premises without the permission of the Library administration and all those photographed
- Talking loudly, making noises or engaging in other disruptive conduct

- Interfering with another person's use of the Library or with library staff performance of their duties
- Patrons whose bodily hygiene is offensive or constitutes a nuisance to other library patrons or staff and thereby interferes with the rights of others to use the Library
- Patrons without shoes, shirts or proper attire, or other mandated attire which may include, but not be limited to, facemasks, gloves, etc.
- Threatening, harassing, staring at or physically harming library patrons or staff
- Being in an unauthorized area of the Library, or remaining in the area after closing
- Carrying a weapon, unless authorized by law. Any patron authorized to carry a weapon must notify the staff
- Loud cell phone conversations in any part of the library other than the lobby
- Obscene language or activity
- Use of scooters, (except conveyances for the handicapped) roller blades or skateboards on library property
- Conduct in violation of Federal, State or Local law within the Library or on Library grounds
- Politicking on Library grounds

Library users who fail to observe this Policy on Acceptable Conduct During a Pandemic/Health Emergency or other rules and regulations of the Library may be asked to leave the building or police assistance may be utilized if deemed advisable by the library staff. Any library user who violates this policy shall be denied the privilege of access to the library by the Library Board of Trustees, on recommendation of the Library Director. Any library user whose privileges have been revoked may have the decision reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

Adopted: July 3, 2020