



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor



**State Library**  
*of Oregon*

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## **COVID-19 Advice for Libraries, including new mask requirements**

**Sector: Libraries**

**Last updated: August 13, 2021**

Effective June 30, 2021, Governor Kate Brown issued [Executive Order No. 21-15](#), lifting most health and safety restrictions set in place to address the COVID-19 pandemic. However, effective August 13, 2021, an indoor mask requirement has been re-instated.

In addition, there are still some guidelines libraries should continue following. Those guidelines, along with relevant changes resulting from the reinstated indoor mask requirement, are described in this document. Most of the linked documents below were issued by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA).

### **Masks and Physical Distancing**

*Source:* [Masking Requirements for Indoor Spaces](#) ; [Public Health Recommendations: Wearing Masks, Face Coverings and Face Shields and Physically Distancing in Public Settings](#)

- Individuals, regardless of vaccination status, are required to wear a face covering when in an indoor space unless the individual:
  - Is under five years of age.
  - Is actively eating or drinking.
  - Is in a private individual workspace.
  - Must remove the face covering briefly to confirm identity.
  - Is performing, such as playing music, delivering a speech, or theater.
  - Other exceptions noted in [Masking Requirements for Indoor Spaces](#).
- Libraries also must:
  - Ensure that employees, contractors, and volunteers comply with this rule.
  - Make reasonable efforts to ensure that patrons comply with this rule.
  - Post signs at every entrance that face coverings are required.

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- The indoor mask requirement does not prohibit a library from making reasonable accommodations in order to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other applicable laws.

## Youth Programming

Source: [Summer and Youth Programs Reopening Public Health Recommendations and Requirements](#)

Libraries offering in-person youth programming (for children 0 to 18 years of age) are subject to some of the requirements for summer and youth programming, as library programming is considered “enrichment programs” for the purposes of the guidance.

1. **Have a written infection control plan** (p.3 of the above document) that complies with the rules adopted by the OHA. Libraries and/or their parent institutions should already have a plan in place, as it is also requirement of Oregon Occupational Safety and Health (OSHA) workplace rules.
  - Details about such plans can be found on page 18 (numbered page 10) of [OSHA’s updated rule on handling public health emergencies](#).
2. **Follow exclusion and notification rules** (p.4):
  - Exclude anyone from programs who tests positive for COVID-19;
  - Recommend that people not come to programs if they are unvaccinated and have been exposed to COVID-19;
  - Notify your [local public health authority](#) if anyone on premises is diagnosed with COVID-19;
  - Make efforts to communicate with anyone who’s been at a program at the same time as someone who was confirmed to have COVID-19.

While the [summer and youth programs guidance](#) also requires some organizations to collect contact tracing information, OHA has confirmed that libraries *are not* subject to this requirement, since library youth programming is generally short and drop-in based.

More details, including practices that are recommended but not required for youth programming, can be found in the linked document above.

## Facilities

Source: [COVID-19 Public Health Recommendations: Indoor Air Considerations for Smaller Spaces](#)

Since COVID-19 can aerosolize, there are some actions libraries can (but are not required to) take inside their buildings to help prevent the spread of the virus and other infectious aerosols.

- Increase outdoor ventilation of clean air into indoor spaces.
- Open windows and doors, weather permitting.
- Allow for breaks between groups using your facilities (e.g. meeting room users).
- Hold programming outside whenever possible.
- Follow [recommendations of the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air-Conditioning Engineers \(ASHRAE\)](#) when selecting HVAC filters.
- Try to keep relative humidity in rooms between 40-60%.

There are other recommendations in the document [Indoor Air Considerations for Smaller Spaces](#).

## Other resources

These sites provide further information on good public health practices related to COVID-19.

- [Building a Safe and Strong Oregon coronavirus information](#) (Governor's Office)
- [COVID-19 and Oregon OSHA workplace rules/considerations](#) (OSHA)
- [COVID-19 information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC)
- [COVID-19 Updates](#) (OHA)
  - Includes printable signs in the "Business Signage" section
- [Find a COVID-19 Vaccine in Oregon](#) (OHA)
- [Ready Schools Safe Learners Resiliency Framework for the 2021-22 School Year](#) (Oregon Department of Education)
- [Reopening Public Health Recommendations for the General Public](#) (OHA)

Libraries seeking further information and support to respond to the pandemic may access the State Library's site on [COVID-19 information for Oregon libraries](#). Questions may also be directed to Buzzy Nielsen, Program Manager for Library Support and Development Services, at [buzzy.nielsen@slo.oregon.gov](mailto:buzzy.nielsen@slo.oregon.gov) or 971-375-3486.