



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor



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Lifting of Most COVID-19 Guidance

Sector: Libraries

Last updated: July 7, 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. More details are available in this [June 25, 2021, news release](#) from the Governor's Office.

While most restrictions are now eliminated or advisory, there are still some guidelines libraries should continue following. Those guidelines, along with relevant changes resulting from the executive order, are described in this document. Most of the linked documents below were issued by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA).

Masks and Physical Distancing

Source: [Public Health Recommendations: Wearing Masks, Face Coverings and Face Shields and Physically Distancing in Public Settings](#)

- Face coverings and 6-foot physical distancing are no longer required in most settings, although both are still *highly* recommended for unvaccinated individuals when in crowded areas and/or large gatherings.
- Some settings still require face coverings and physical distancing. Library workers who do outreach at health care settings, correctional facilities, airports, bus stations, or on public transportation will still be required to have face coverings and physically distance.
- Businesses are still permitted to have their own policies in place regarding masks and physical distancing. If your library is interested in having such policies, we encourage you to work with your [county public health authority](#).

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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 or 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.

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- 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 or 971-375-3486.