

Livingston Manor Free Library- LMFL

Current Pandemic Restrictions & Transition Plan to End Them

The LMFL's pandemic policy was updated in 2021 (attached) shortly after Stacey Tromblee's arrival as Library Director. In it, the Board delegates to the Library Director the responsibility to implement the policy, which effectively involves interpreting for the Library what State mandates and/or guidelines indicate as either required or prudent.

The practices in place currently are the following:

- Staff and patrons are required to wear masks to enter the building;
- Patrons are limited to 25 minutes in the building, after which they must leave though they can return after an hour.
- A limit of five people other than staff at a time in the building, with discretion for the Director to waive depending on circumstances.
- Contact tracing protocols to collect the name and contact information from all patrons.
- Staff are required to wipe down the computer stations after every use;
- Staff are required to wipe down all surfaces at the end of the day;
- The quarantine on books has already been removed.
- The Director keeps the community informed about these restrictions via the Library's Facebook page and website.

NY State law also requires that LMFL retain a 30-day supply of masks for staff and patrons, which the Library complies with.

Other information: LMFL has already resumed in-person programming (with masks). We are leading the way in this as none of 65 other libraries in NY State that participated in a recent summer reading program forum, are yet doing.

In mid-March, Governor Hochul extended through April 15, 2022 an Executive Order declaring a health emergency. (See attached)

So, the Library Director's proposed plan for our transition to end restrictions is as follows:

As of April 15, on condition the Governor's emergency order is **not** further extended due to a COVID uptick, the current restrictions will be changed as follows:

- 1) Masks for staff and patrons will become optional.
- 2) The 25-minute limit on the duration of stay in the Library will be lifted.
- 3) The 5-person limit on the number of people will be lifted.
- 4) Eliminate contact tracing protocols.
- 5) Staff will use discretion in terms of wiping computers and workstations between users.
- 6) Staff will continue to wipe down all surfaces at the end of each day. They note that the practice has not only deterred Covid infections, but also the common cold and flu.
- 7) Continue to have on hand a 30-day supply of masks and cleaning supplies.