



DOWNTOWN LIBRARY
610 QUINCY ST. | RAPID CITY, SD 57701 | 605.394.4171

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Date: March 8, 2021
To: RCPL Board of Trustees
From: Judy Sneller, Policy Committee Vice Chair
Re: Safety Guidelines

Date: March 2, 2021
To: Judy Sneller, Policy Committee Vice Chair
From: Sean Minkel, Assistant Library Director
Re: Safety Guidelines

Motion: Move to continue the current face mask requirement, except in cases of documented medical exemptions, until the numbers of active Covid-19 cases in Pennington County have remained below 200 for one week, per the DOH website.

Background: The number of active Covid-19 cases in Pennington County has dropped significantly in the past several weeks, from a high of 1,928 on December 7 down to 211 on February 14. Cases increased slightly after that, with 254 as of February 25. Numbers have since declined again, to 207 as of March 4.

On February 17, the Mayor relaxed health and safety regulations in City Hall, while still identifying that departments have the authority to impose stricter regulations outside of City Hall. Because of the diverse populations the library serves, the recommendation is to continue the library's mask requirement, allowing for exceptions in the cases of documented medical exemptions, until the numbers of active cases have remained consistently below 200. At that point, the directive would be 'masks strongly recommended'.

Even after relaxing the library requirements, masks must be worn, medical exemptions or not, when seeking direct assistance from library staff, due to the inability to maintain social distancing in those cases. In addition, masks will continue to be required in the Business Office and the downstairs makerspace, again because of the inability to maintain social distancing and the need for direct staff assistance.

Library staff must wear masks in the public areas of the library, but may remove their masks in closed offices or in other staff workspaces where social distancing can be maintained.