

7/30/21

Dear Chatham Area Public Library Community,

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the Library has worked to align its policies with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). Since pandemic conditions can and do change quickly, our policies must as well.

The CDC's revised indoor mask recommendations for [communities experiencing substantial or high transmission rates](#) recommends indoor mask wearing for all people regardless of their vaccination status. With Sangamon County currently in a state of high transmission, **beginning on Friday, July 30, 2021, the Chatham Area Public Library will require all visitors, patrons, and staff to wear masks while inside the Library.** The only exception will be for young children two years of age and under.

I recognize that masking may feel like an inconvenience for vaccinated patrons, but we must, as we have done throughout this pandemic, put safety first. Many children who cannot be vaccinated use the Library along with patrons in high-risk categories, and we must care and take precautions for them - our neighbors - because we are a community that looks out for one another.

If you cannot or choose not to wear a mask, you are welcome to use our Digital Library offerings, databases, and Contactless Curbside Service. I request that all patrons be kind to our staff members, who will be enforcing this policy, and who will all be wearing masks themselves.

I can assure you that we are all as ready as you are for this pandemic to be over and hope that Sangamon County will move out of the high and substantial categories quickly. I appreciate your kindness and understanding as we move into this policy shift.

Most Warmly,

Amy Byers

Chatham Area Public Library Director