

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) Guidance to Contractors – Updated CDC Guidance on Masks and
Reminder of Library Mask Requirements**

The health and well-being of the entire Library workforce is our paramount concern during the Coronavirus pandemic. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have updated mask guidelines indicating that people should wear masks in public settings, at events or gatherings and anywhere they will be around other people. Wearing a mask under these conditions has been mandatory at Library facilities and continues to be an expectation for all persons in Library buildings.

There are some circumstances when wearing a mask is not feasible or practicable, for example when eating or drinking. It is also acceptable to remove masks when persons are alone and in their private offices or cubicles with at least 6 feet of separation from other employees in that workspace.

Maintaining as much distance as possible from other people, preferably at least 6-10 feet away, is important. Masks are important, but they are NOT a substitute for physical and social distancing. If another person enters the workspace, persons working there must immediately put on masks.

The CDC guidelines indicate that masks are not required:

- while eating, drinking, or taking medication for brief periods of time;
- while communicating, for brief periods of time, with a person who is hearing impaired when the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication;
- if, on an aircraft, wearing of oxygen masks is needed because of loss of cabin pressure or other event affecting aircraft ventilation;
- if unconscious (for reasons other than sleeping), incapacitated, unable to be awakened, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance; or
- when necessary to temporarily remove the mask to verify one's identity such as during Transportation Security Administration (TSA) screenings or when asked to do so by the ticket or gate agent or any law enforcement official.

The Library is following CDC and local health department advice to provide the maximum protection against COVID-19 transmission in Library buildings.

Contractors will continue to work with their CORs to implement CDC and Library guidance as posted to the Library of Congress Website at: <https://www.loc.gov/about/pandemic-information/for-contractors/>.