Coronavirus (COVID-19) Guidance to Contractors – Updated Library Protocols

As we continue to see rising cases of coronavirus in the area, the Library has updated the guidance for those employees, researchers, and contractors who enter Library facilities. The health and well-being of the entire Library workforce is our paramount concern during the coronavirus pandemic.

Mandatory On-Site Precautions

It is critical to understand that the health precautions required at the Library are mandatory and must be followed at all times, particularly during this current surge in COVID-19 cases. Masks must be worn correctly, fitting well over the nose and mouth; 6 feet of distance must be maintained between individuals at all times practicable; and handwashing and sanitizing must be a regular habit.

Because of the increased infectiousness of the Omicron variant, the Library is implementing the following updated precautions until COVID-19 transmission decreases:

- Wear masks at all times when working in shared spaces where it is not possible to see another individual approaching the workspaces.
- Maintain at least 12 feet of distance when eating or drinking. This is double the distance that should be maintained when masked.
- No socializing or meeting during meals is permitted.

The Madison Café is available for meals but individuals must maintain at least 12 feet of distancing, mask when not actively eating or drinking and cannot move tables from their distanced positions.

Individuals are encouraged to utilize a KN95 or KF94 mask, if they are able, or double mask, layering a surgical mask under a cloth mask.

All masks should fit snugly against the face and securely above the nose and below the chin. A simple cloth mask that does not fit well over the nose and mouth does not provide enough protection to keep you from becoming infected. The most effective mask is the one worn properly and consistently.

Unvaccinated individuals who have been granted accommodations by their employer cannot wear blue surgical masks (less than level 3), cloth face masks, bandanas or gaiters - these must be replaced by the more protective KN95, or KF94 or double masking with a surgical mask under a cloth mask.

Individuals, whether working on-site or teleworking, are required to report any symptoms of COVID-19, positive test results for COVID-19, and/or any situation where they have been a close contact to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 at HSDCOVID-check-in@loc.gov.