

October 23, 2020
Library board
Great Falls Public Library

Subject:
Mask wearing policy

When we examine a policy we evaluate whether or not it is effective. We gather evidence. How do we achieve this goal? By consistently following it with the intent of safeguarding ourselves and the public and then looking at the results.

Cementing my testimony of our mask policy happened when a staff member contracted Covid-19. Most of us had worked with this person and not ONE of us has gotten sick. I know it is because of our policy of mask wearing, social distancing, and personal hygiene. You can always tell the worth of a policy by its fruit or outcome.

The Great Falls Public Library has been open successfully for about 5 months now in phase two except for the one week we were closed for cleaning because of the Covid case of one staff member.

As we diligently follow the Governor's directive and the admonition of our library director and keep the safety of the staff and patrons in mind we will be able to serve the public and stay open. Our mission, "The Great Falls Public Library serves as a connection point; we empower the community and enhance the quality of life by providing individuals access to information and social, cultural, and recreational resources" requires us to be aware of the needs of our community and do our best to fulfill them. We cannot accomplish this goal if we are closed due to the pandemic.

I feel empowered at this time to be a representative of the Great Falls Library when I am at work and to be an example of good policy procedure as I adhere to wearing a mask properly. Even though it is hard to wear the mask all day at work I feel less vulnerable and have a lot less anxiety each day. We encourage all patrons to do the same as a courtesy to all who come to the library.

Sincerely,
Debbie Stewart
Library Specialist