

Food Allergy Policy of the Wilkinsburg Public Library

Policy number: 110

Date adopted: February 20, 2024

Replaces: All prior Wilkinsburg Public Library food allergy policies

PURPOSE:

To establish guidelines for children and/or adults who come to the library for programs

STATEMENT OF POLICY:

Food and Beverages in the Library

For the comfort and convenience of our patrons, Wilkinsburg Public Library allows food and beverages in some areas of the library. Drinks must be in covered containers. We ask our patrons to clean up after themselves and to notify staff if there is a spill that needs attention.

Patrons are expected to take responsibility for maintaining a sanitary and pleasant environment in this shared space. Trash receptacles are provided throughout the library for patrons' convenience. We strongly recommend hand washing with soap and water before and after eating. Unattended food and drink may be removed and discarded.

Food Allergies

Wilkinsburg Public Library recognizes that a food allergy is a disability protected by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and that reactions of individuals to food allergies may result in serious life-threatening medical conditions.

Wilkinsburg Public Library also acknowledges that individuals may have dietary restrictions due to cultural, religious, and/or medical reasons.

Wilkinsburg Public Library allows food and beverages in some areas of the library, and those with severe food allergies should be aware that food allergens may be present in the library as it is a shared community space. People may also have

had food in areas where it is not permitted. The Children's library only allows food and drinks where it is clearly posted. The adult library is at the staff's discretion and permitted as long as it does not create a disturbance to the environment. All-purpose cleaning wipes and/or all-purpose spray cleaner, paper towels, and disposable gloves are available if you wish to wipe down a hard surface.

Please be aware that at the Wilkinsburg Public Library food is occasionally present in some of our programs, both as snacks and as craft materials. The Children's library also provides snacks all year long and lunches in the summer. If someone has a food allergy, they may request a reasonable accommodation and one will be provided if possible. This food allergy policy will be available on the library's website.

Those with food allergies are responsible for monitoring refreshments served at the library. Responsibility for monitoring minors' rests with their parents, guardians, or custodial caregivers.

Library staff do not oversee food brought in by patrons or outside groups for potential food allergens.

The Library Director is available to discuss measures to reduce the likelihood of a food allergy reaction at the library.