

August 13, 2021

Dear Parents:


I thank you for all that you are doing during this time for your children and recognize the many perspectives about the COVID-19 pandemic. In light of the current order from the State Health Commissioner, Dr. M. Norman Oliver, to require that all individuals wear masks while inside public and private school buildings, Pittsylvania County Schools understands that there may be students with very significant health issues that preclude them from wearing a mask. In the event that you have a child who has an existing medical condition that prevents him or her from wearing a mask in an otherwise mandatory setting, Pittsylvania County Schools has provided a Face Mask Medical Exemption Request form.

Parents seeking an exemption from the mask mandate for their child are required to have a medical professional complete the Face Mask Medical Exemption Request form. A parent's signature is also required. The Mask Exemption form will require the medical professional to identify the specific medical condition that precludes mask-wearing, the length of time a mask can be continuously worn before requiring a break, and also what indicators will be considered in lifting the specific restriction.

Please be aware that in indoor K-12 classroom settings, a student who is within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student is not considered a close contact as long as both the infected student and the exposed student correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time. Also, a student who cannot tolerate a required mask may be required to comply with other preventative and mitigating measures to ensure others sharing the same space in the school are not subjected to increased risk of infection. These measures may include physical separation from others as well as other modes of instruction.

If you should have a question regarding this matter, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Mark R. Jones
Division Superintendent

Enclosure: Face Mask Medical Exemption Request form