



PETERSBURG CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

255 East South Boulevard
Petersburg, Virginia 23805-2700
(804) 518-6291
FAX (804) 325-8961

August 23, 2022

Dear Families,

In February 2022, Governor Glenn Youngkin signed Senate Bill 739 into law. It allows parents to opt-out their children from school mask mandates, starting March 2022.

As a result, the Petersburg City Public Schools will continue to allow families to opt-out of our requirement that students wear masks when inside our buildings. To do so, please sign and return the attached opt-out form to your child's school office. If you do not sign and return the opt-out form, your student must continue to follow our mask requirement.

As a school division, we strongly encourage mask wearing as a key strategy in our efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our schools and community, especially since the City's current level of COVID-19 transmission is still high. We will focus on maintaining a positive and welcoming learning environment in which students feel comfortable wearing a mask.

It is important to note that, per Federal regulations, students are not required to wear masks on school buses but are encouraged as an extra mitigation strategy for your child. At this time, all Petersburg City Public Schools staff members are required to wear masks in our buildings, per Petersburg City Public Schools' current regulations.

We will continue to review and update our mitigation strategies to keep our staff and students safe and our schools open for the remainder of the school year. As always, thank you for your flexibility, support, and understanding as we navigate the many challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,

Dr. Julius Hamlin,
Acting Superintendent

Mr. Kenneth L. Pritchett,
School Board Chairman



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Mask Mandate Opt-Out Form

Child's Name: _____

School: _____

Grade: _____ Homeroom Teacher: _____

Parent's Name: _____

My signature below indicates that I would like to:

- **Opt-Out of Petersburg City Public School's requirement that my child wears a face mask when inside Petersburg City Public School buildings.**

I further understand:

- **My child is not required to wear masks on Petersburg City Public School buses but are encouraged as an extra mitigation strategy.**

Parent's Signature: _____

Date: _____