Blue Ridge
Educational Center
Unlocking Learning Potential

January 21, 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians:

In accordance with Governor Youngkin's Executive Order #2 and Order of Public Health Emergency #1, our mask policy procedures are being updated to align with the state requirements.

This means that parents can now choose whether or not their student should wear a mask at school as long as the student is not subject to quarantine or isolation due to a COVID-19 positive test or exposure.

At this time, BREC's policy remains the same—that all students, staff, and visitors continue to wear a mask when indoors at our school; however, parents now have an option to elect that their student NOT be subject to this part of the policy. Since the Executive Order #2 requires parental consent, any student who does not wear a mask in school must have the attached waiver signed by their parent or guardian which opts out of BREC's current masking policy.

The federal CDC Order for Public Transit is still in effect, meaning there will be no change to the masking policy on school buses or vehicles and students will still be required to wear masks in those settings until the federal order is lifted.

Community transmission rates of COVID-19 are currently HIGH in all counties where our students reside. It is highly recommended that your student continues to wear a mask while at school during times when community transmission is high. We ask that you please consider the following when deciding whether your student should continue to wear a mask while at school:

- Has your student been fully vaccinated or has your student had COVID in the last 3 months? If so, your student may be at lower risk to self and others when not wearing a mask at school.

- Is your student immunocompromised or frequently around other people who are at high risk for developing complications as a result of contracting COVID? If so, it is highly recommended that your student continues to wear a mask while at school during times when community transmission is high.

It is important to note that any student who returns to school after 5 days of quarantine or isolation due to COVID-19, will be required to continue to wear a mask at school for days 6-10, regardless of parent opt out decision.

Parents should continue to monitor their student's health and the health of their families for COVID-19 symptoms. Children with COVID-19 generally have mild, cold-like symptoms, such as fever, runny nose, and cough. Vomiting and diarrhea have also been reported in some children. Children with certain underlying medical conditions, such as chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma, serious heart conditions, or weak immune systems, might be at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19. We recommend that you consult your student's healthcare provider about concerns and to keep your student at home if they are exhibiting any signs of illness.

If your student has been exposed to or diagnosed with COVID-19, please report this to BREC. This information will be kept confidential. If your student is tested, please ensure your student stays home until test results are reported.

School policies (including the parent opt out) are subject to change at any time pending updated public health guidance and/or any state and federal mandates.

A paper copy of this memo and mask exemption form will also go home with students on Monday, January 24th.

Mask Exemption Form

January 24, 2022

My student, _____, is authorized to not wear a face mask for the prevention of COVID-19 in school.

By signing below, I agree that I have read the school's recommendations during periods of HIGH community transmission. I also understand that this form does not exempt the mask requirement on school buses and vehicles (federal requirement), or the mask requirement for days 6-10 if my student returns to school following a quarantine or isolation due to COVID-19 (Infectious Disease Plan). **School policies are subject to change based on state and federal mandates.**

Parent/Guardian Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Phone Number: _____

Executive Director's Signature: _____