



Mask Opt-Out Form

SUMMER 2021

Form to be completed by a parent or guardian

Today's Date: _____

To Whom It May Concern: _____ (Student's name)

is a student at _____ (name of school).

Masks have been one of the most effective public health strategies to help with preventing spread of SARS-CoV-2 within our school system. To date, Chesapeake Public Schools (CPS) has used layered mitigation strategies in order to provide the safest possible environment for students and staff while offering in-person instruction. These layers of mitigation have included masking, physical distancing, contact tracing, quarantine, isolation, and recently, vaccination. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Virginia Department of Health (VDH), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), as well as local health officials and institutions support the continued use of masks in school because many of our students are not currently eligible for vaccination. In addition, CPS conducts contact tracing in accordance with the CDC and VDH recommendations. **Please note that anyone identified as a close contact may be required to quarantine. Masking may reduce the likelihood that your child will be quarantined.**

Masks are strongly recommended for all individuals in K-12 school settings, especially for those who are not vaccinated. We encourage parents, guardians, and school staff to continue to work with students to support mask wearing in school at this time.

By signing this form, you are giving your child permission to participate in their indoor instructional time without the use of a mask. You also acknowledge that you are aware that masks are required on public transportation, which includes school buses. Your signature below **does not** exempt your child from wearing a mask while riding the school bus as this is a federal requirement.

(Parent/guardian signature)

(Parent/guardian printed name)

(Parent/Guardian Phone number)