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Dr. JONATHAN D. RUSS
Superintendent

Superintendent's Update – November 14, 2020

Dear Botetourt County Students, Staff, Parents, and Community:

I hope this update finds you safe and well! On Friday, November 13, 2020, Governor Northam announced new statewide measures to help contain the spread of COVID-19. You can view the contents of this statement directly from the [Governor's webpage](#). How will the Governor's amended Executive Order 63 affect the students, staff, parents, and community of Botetourt County Public Schools?

- All individuals in the Commonwealth aged **five and over** shall, when entering, exiting, traveling through, and spending time inside a school building, cover their mouth and nose with a face covering ([Executive Order 63, Amended 11/13/2020](#)). There are exceptions to the mask requirements. They can be found on page 3 of the Amended Executive Order 63, linked above. These exceptions do not include the previous CDC recommended threshold of 6 ft.
- The number of individuals allowed to gather in a social setting has been reduced from 250 to 25. The social gathering limit **does not apply to instructional educational settings**, including classrooms, buses, cafeterias, and recess. The 25-person limit does apply to the total number of spectators at athletic competitions. Additional details will be forthcoming from the VHSL regarding this matter.

This amended Executive Order 63 goes into effect at 12:00 a.m., Monday, November 16, 2020, and shall remain in full force and effect until amended or rescinded by further executive order.

I am extremely proud of our students, faculty, and staff for their continued efforts as we battle the spread of COVID-19. With each requirement and recommendation that has been placed before us, you have all responded tremendously. I realize we are all tired of COVID-19 and the restrictions due to this virus, but I respectfully request that we all remain vigilant and keep fighting the fight together. There will be a day in the future when we can put this behind us.

Sincerely,

Jonathan D. Russ, Ed.D.
Superintendent