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Dr. JONATHAN D. RUSS
Superintendent

Superintendent Update – February 8, 2022

Dear Students, Staff, Parents, and Community:

The Botetourt County School Board issued a [press release](#) earlier this afternoon in which they announced parents may opt their children out of wearing a mask while at school, effective Wednesday, February 9. To help us manage this change, each school will send out a form that only needs to be completed by parents wishing to opt-out their child from the requirement to wear a mask while in school. These forms are also available on our [COVID Information Website](#).

Wearing masks while indoors, though no longer required, is still encouraged as an effective component of our layered mitigation strategies. Please refer to our COVID Information website for updated documents that reflect these recent changes.

A few things have not changed:

- Federal mandate still requires students to wear masks while accessing transportation provided by the division, regardless of vaccination status or masking choice while at school.
- Students who return from a 5-day isolation or quarantine period will be required to consistently and correctly wear a mask for days 6-10.
- Masks are still required of all employees, regardless of vaccination status.

As always, thank you for your continued support of Botetourt County Schools.

Sincerely,

Jonathan D. Russ, Ed.D.
Superintendent