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Dear Parent or Guardian:

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness spread mainly from person-to-person through respiratory droplets which are produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. These droplets can land in the mouths and noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. COVID-19 may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms which is why keeping exposed individuals separated from others is important.

Symptoms may appear several days after exposure to the virus. The most common symptoms associated with COVID-19 are fever, cough, and difficulty breathing. If symptoms develop in your child, seek medical care, and get tested.

Leading health experts believe the best way to prevent illness is by limiting exposure to the virus by

- maintaining physical distance,
- using a mask when around others indoors,
- washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, routinely clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and
- other mitigating methods.

In order to keep ALL students safe and to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our schools and classrooms, we are temporarily requiring all **Pre-K – 12<sup>th</sup> grade students** to wear face masks while indoors. If this temporary requirement is an issue for you and your child because of health concerns or individual freedoms you may complete the signature portion of this form and return it to your child’s school.

*In accordance with the Department of Health, Division of Disease Control Emergency Rule 64DER21-15 Emergency Rule Adoption Package, students K-12 will be permitted to Opt Out of a requirement to wear a mask.*

**My child, \_\_\_\_\_, will Opt Out of wearing a mask.**

**Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_**

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