

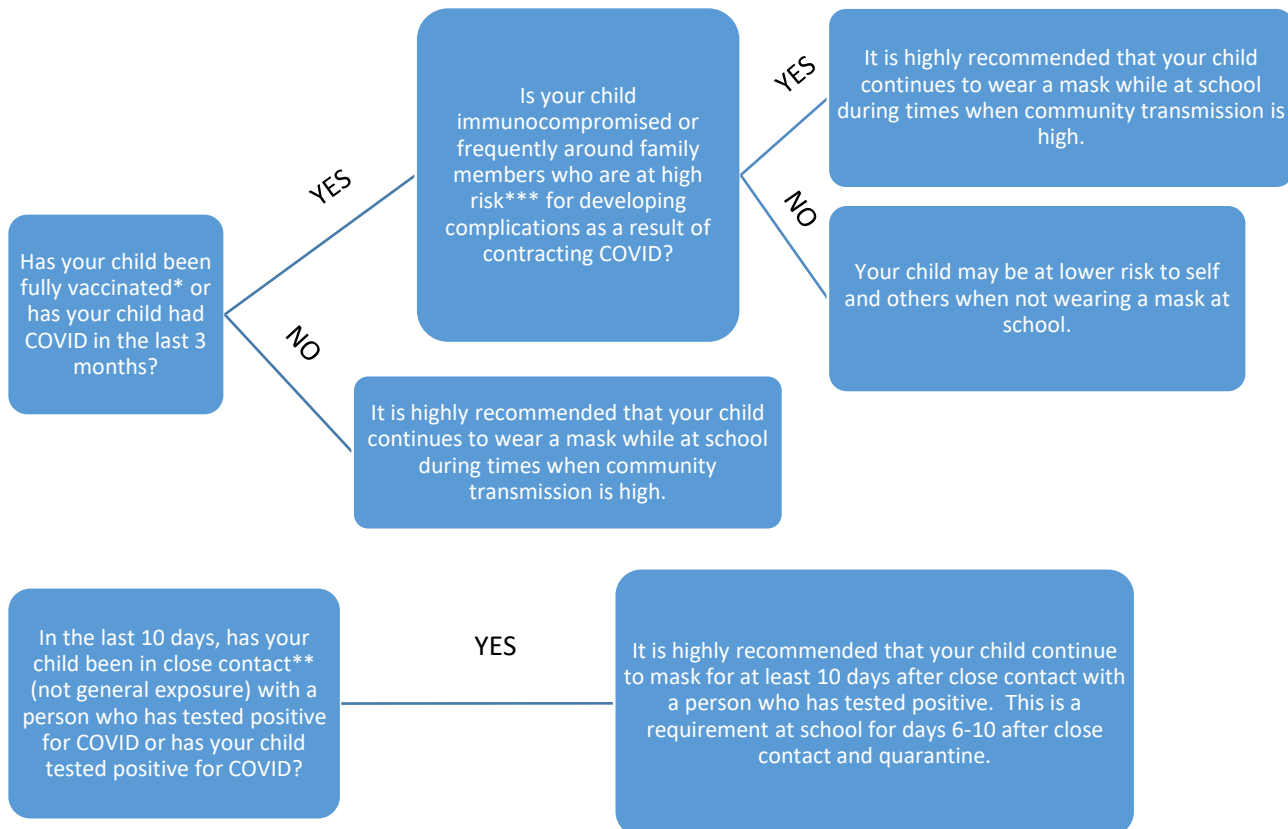
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## Important Mask Policy Update January 21, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Our school division is informing parents and guardians that, in accordance with [Governor Youngkin's Executive Order 2 and Order of Public Health Emergency 1](#), RCPS is updating its mask policy enforcement procedures to align with the state requirement. This means that parents can now choose whether or not their child should wear a mask at school. At this time, RCPS policy remains the same—that all students, staff, and visitors continue to wear a mask at school until the recent surge of the Omicron variant subsides, however, parents now have an option to elect that their child NOT be subject to this part of the policy. In addition, the federal CDC Order for Public Transit is still in effect, meaning there will be no change to the masking policy on school buses. Students will still be required to wear masks on school buses until the federal order is lifted, as well as when certain infectious disease regulations require it (days 6-10 post quarantine).

We ask that you please consider using the following decision making flow chart when deciding whether your child should continue to wear a mask while at school:



\* Up to date means a person has received all recommended COVID-19 vaccines, including any booster dose(s) when eligible. Fully vaccinated means a person has received their primary series of COVID-19 vaccines.

\*\* Close contact means being within 3-6' of a person for 15 minutes or more who has tested positive for COVID 19 depending on masking status of each individual at the time of contact.

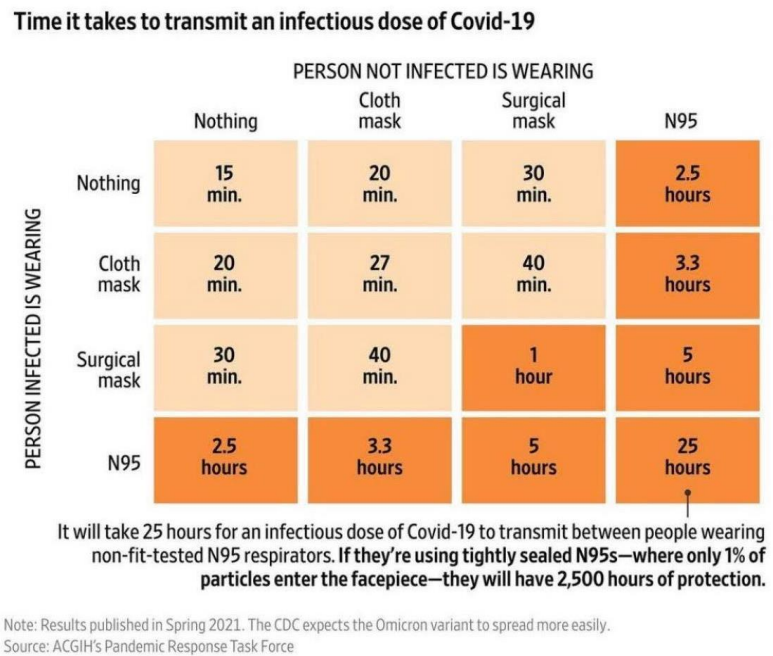
\*\*\* Those at higher risk of developing complications from COVID infection include older adults (65 years+) and people of any age with serious underlying medical conditions.

Parents should continue to monitor their child’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. Contact your child's healthcare provider regarding any concerns.

People without symptoms do not need to seek care or be tested. Those who become ill should contact their healthcare provider. Their doctor, in consultation with public health officials, will determine appropriate care and whether testing is necessary. If your child has been exposed to or diagnosed with COVID-19, please report this to your school. This information will be kept confidential. If your child is tested, please ensure your child stays home until test results are reported.

The CDC has updated its guidance on the types of masks that offer the most protection against Omicron. Please consider the following chart when deciding which type of mask to provide your child (KN95 masks may be available upon request, contact your child’s school nurse to inquire about availability if interested). Students wearing KN95 masks will not be subject to quarantine rules.



If after reading this information, you would like to elect for your child(ren) to not be subject to any mask requirements in your child’s school or school program, please fill out the information below and send to your child(ren)’s school. If your children are at both campuses, you can send in one form with all names to either school. It is not required that you use this format. You may send a note to school with your child electing they not be subject to the masking part of the school board policy in lieu of this form. *Remember, students will still be required to wear a mask on school buses and after close contact/quarantine on days 6-10.* Also, the executive order is subject to change at any time pending challenges already petitioned in court.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature / Date: \_\_\_\_\_