

## **MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT 2021-22 APPLICATION FOR EXCEPTION FROM MASK REQUIREMENT**

Under the Mount Vernon City School District Board Policy during times of elevated communicable disease community spread as determined by the Board in consultation with health professionals, all students are required to wear masks while being transported on District school buses or other modes of school transportation

Exceptions to the mask requirement will be made on a day-to-day basis in the following circumstances, as deemed applicable by the educator supervising the educational setting, building principal, or Superintendent:

1. The individual is communicating or seeking to communicate with someone who is hearing impaired or has another disability where an accommodation is appropriate or necessary;
2. The individual is actively participating in outdoor recess and/or physical activity where students are able to maintain a distance of six feet or more, or athletic practice, scrimmage, or competition that is permitted under a Department of Health Order;
3. The individual is seated and actively consuming food or beverage;
4. Where students and staff can maintain distancing of at least six feet and removal of the mask is necessary for instructional purposes, including instruction in foreign language, English language for non-native speakers, and other subjects where wearing a mask would prohibit participation in normal classroom activities, such as playing an instrument;
5. Students are able to maintain a distance of six feet or more and a mask break is deemed necessary by the educator supervising the educational setting; and
6. The individual is alone in an enclosed space, such as an office.

An individual may apply for an exception to the mask requirement, which would be applicable throughout the school year, if either of the following circumstances are applicable:

### **Medical Exemption**

The individual has a medical condition, including respiratory conditions that restrict breathing, a mental health condition, or a disability that contraindicates the wearing of a mask.

Per the district's legal counsel 'Pepple & Waggoner' the **medical exemption** form must include a written statement from a licensed medical physician specifically stating the medical reason why the person seeking the exemption should not be required to wear a mask or face covering. Medical exemptions may be reviewed by the board's appointed medical physician.

### **Religious Exemption**

When an established, sincerely-held religious requirement exists that does not permit a mask.

Per the district's legal counsel 'Pepple & Waggoner' the **religious exemption** form must include the following: The exemption must be from a leader of the 'established' religious group with verification in the form of Doctrine and/or Bylaws that prohibits a member from wearing a face covering. The aforementioned information will be evaluated by legal counsel utilizing the U.S. Federal 6th Circuit Court of appeals ruling.

A person seeking a continuing exception to the mandatory mask rule must indicate the exception he/she believes is applicable to his/her circumstance by filling in the relevant box above, and providing a detailed description of his/her circumstance below:

If seeking an exception due to a medical condition, mental health condition, or a disability that contraindicates the wearing of a mask, you must attach to this form documentation from the treating medical professional which supports such claim.

Applications must be submitted to the Superintendent's Office: **300 Newark Road**. The Superintendent or his/her designee may require further information/documentation before making a determination of whether to grant or deny an exception.

Employee/Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print)

Employee/Student/Parent  
Signature and Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature) (Date)