



# Mingo County Schools

## Re-entry Strategy for the 2020-2021 School Year

*Safer Learning for All*



### Safer Learning for All in the COVID-19 Pandemic

This is release 1.0 of the Mingo County School District's Re-entry strategy for the 2020-2021 school year. School begins September 8 for students. Staff reports August 25.

The Mingo County School District and the Board of Education worked within the framework of options provided by the State Board of Education and guidelines provided by federal, state, and local health agencies to develop learning options for Mingo students and families. The District has also followed guidance to develop strategies for daily sanitation of school buildings, classrooms, and buses, as well as routines for maintaining social distancing throughout the school day. Since COVID-19 safety guidance is constantly changing, our re-entry strategies are fluid and will be updated as guidance and conditions change.

1

#### BLENDED LEARNING

Students return to school for four days of in-person learning and participate in remote learning on a District-provided device on the fifth day.

Content and assignments are accessed through the District Learning Management System, Open LMS. Teachers will have video/audio conference office times on remote learning days for advising and tutoring.

2

#### VIRTUAL LEARNING

Students learn from home on a District-provided device, and receive instruction from a Mingo County state-certified teacher, via a digital curriculum developed specifically for virtual school.

Students/Teachers will interact in scheduled video/audio conferencing sessions for advising and tutoring.

### DAILY STRATEGIES



#### Social Distancing

Maintain recommended distancing in classrooms, hallways, and common areas.



#### Face Coverings Grades PK-2:

Required on buses.

**Grades 3-5:** Required on buses, halls, congregant areas, and in classrooms under metric orange. (pp. 5,6)

**Grades 6-8:** Required on buses, halls, congregant areas, and in classrooms under metrics yellow-orange. (pp. 5,6)

**Grades 9-12:** Required on buses, halls, congregant areas, and in classrooms.

The District will provide a limited number of reusable face coverings.



#### Hand Washing

Restrooms will be stocked with soap and paper towels. Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the school.

## Daily Routines

School safety teams will develop daily routines for operations based on current guidance.

**Arrival & Dismissal Procedures** will be implemented to best assure social distancing.

- Buses will be loaded/unloaded one by one to reduce hallway traffic.
- Parent drop-off/pick-up will be curbside.
- Temperature checks will occur upon entrance.
- No general holding areas. Students will report to first class.
- Recommended health screening procedures will be followed.

**Hallway Traffic** will be regulated with wall/floor signage for social distancing and creating one-way traffic flow, where possible. School will use communication to allow the fewest students in halls at any time.

**Common Areas**, such as the school cafeteria, will be kept at 50% capacity or less during meals. Some younger students will eat in classrooms. Assemblies in gyms/auditoriums will not be conducted.

**Restroom Breaks** will be scheduled. Students will not be prohibited from visiting restrooms when needed. Water fountains will be covered/disabled. Other safe water sources will be available.

**Outside Visitors** will be strictly limited. Parent meetings may occur virtually, when possible. A special meeting space will be designated in each school and screening procedures required.



**Waiting Areas** will be established in each building and procedures implemented for persons who may exhibit symptoms of COVID-19. This is a temporary action while preparing for the person to leave the building.

**Face Coverings** will be provided in limited quantities to all students and staff by the District. Self-provided coverings are also encouraged. Staff members are required to wear face coverings in all areas of the building at all times. Staff or students with medical conditions restricting the wearing of face coverings must provide appropriate documentation. The following are current District and/or State guidelines:

**Grades PK-2:** Required on buses.

**Grades 3-5:** Required on buses, halls, congregant areas, and in classrooms under metric orange. (pp. 5,6)

**Grades 6-8:** Required on buses, halls, congregant areas, and in classrooms under metrics yellow-orange. (pp. 5,6)

**Grades 9-12:** Required on buses, halls, congregant areas, and in classrooms.

## Transportation Measures

Current guidelines will be followed for transportation by school bus.

- All students are required to wear face coverings while on the bus.
- Drivers are required to wear face coverings when students are on the bus.
- No more than two students shall ride in one seat, unless all of one household.
- Overcrowding will be addressed by reconfiguring bus runs to decrease the number of passengers.
- Buses will be cleaned and disinfected between runs.



# Sanitation Strategies

Part of our “Safer Learning for All” plan includes sanitation strategies for deep cleaning and daily disinfecting of our school buildings and buses.

**Cleaning Routines-** Our custodians and bus drivers will work from a checklist of tasks to ensure our sanitation procedures are followed each day. These checklists, as with all our strategies, are subject to change as guidances and recommendations change. Principals will also customize their checklists for their buildings.

**Technology for Disinfecting-** The District has purchased special technology designed for efficiently and effectively applying E23 disinfectant, certified to kill the COVID-19 virus on surfaces. These machines have been purchased for each school and for each school bus.



**Shown at left is the handheld, battery operated device that will be kept on each school bus.**

**Shown below is the misting device assigned to each custodian to apply disinfectant over school building surfaces.**



**The E23 disinfectant, used in both machines has been certified to kill the COVID-19 virus on contact and is safe for human beings.**

## Buildings

### DAILY CLEANING CHECKLIST

- Mop bathrooms twice each morning and mist with E23 disinfectant solution.
- Mop bathrooms twice in the afternoon and mist with E23 disinfectant solution.
- Supply items needed in bathrooms.
- Empty trash.
- Sweep all outside exit/entrance door areas and sidewalk/curb areas.
- Use E23 disinfectant solution and clean exit/entrance doors twice each morning and afternoon.
- Clean high-touch areas in classrooms, hallways, common areas, and restrooms with E23 disinfectant solution.
- Clean glass in assigned area.
- Sweep and mop in assigned area.
- Vacuum any rugs in in assigned area.
- Use E23 disinfectant solution to clean tops of student desk.
- Use the misting device to disinfect each classroom after normal cleaning is finished.

## Buses

### DAILY CLEANING CHECKLIST

- Clean/ disinfect high-touch surfaces before each route ( e.g. surfaces in the drivers cockpit, hard seats, arm rests, door handles, seat belt buckles, light and air controls, doors, windows, and grab handles).
- Clean, sanitize and disinfect equipment including items such as a car seats, wheelchairs, walkers and adaptive equipment transported to schools.
- Thoroughly mist bus with E23 disinfectant before each run.
- Keep doors and windows open while cleaning to allow ventilation.
- Ensure hand sanitizer is available for students.

# Instruction & Learning



Mingo County Students will be returning to a learning environment, much different from what they've experienced in the past. Whether as blended in-person/remote or as full

virtual learners, students will use technology to access content and assignments greater than ever before.

Before reading further, it is important to understand the difference between remote and virtual learning. **Remote Learning** is when "in-person" students access content & assignments from their regular teachers, at home on Fridays, or any day when school has been closed for weather or illness. **Virtual Learning**, sometimes known as virtual school, is for students who have opted not to return to the school building. All learning happens at home, 5 days each week.

## Our learning devices

**PK-8** students will be issued **Chromebooks** for in-class work on in-person days, and for at-home work on remote learning days .

**High School** students will continue to use Lenovo laptops running Windows 10. New devices have been ordered for every student. Students are permitted to take devices home daily.

**Virtual students** will be issued a device, appropriate for their grade level. These devices are kept at home.

## Our learning platforms

**Blended/in-person students** will use their devices to access our curriculum on our learning management system (**LMS**), sometimes referred to as **Open LMS, Moodle, or Blackboard Classroom**. Teachers will load learning content, assignments, assessments and announcements to the **LMS**. Assignments and content can also be downloaded for offline work before leaving school in case there is no Internet connection at home. Teachers will also use the LMS

communication tools to send messages and to conduct video/audio virtual meetings with students.

**Virtual school students** will access their curriculum (**Calvert Learning** for K-5, **Courseware** for 6-12) through the virtual portal. Virtual teachers will use this system to deliver content, assignments, and assessments, as well as to communicate and provide video/audio tutoring sessions.

## Expectations for learners

### BLENDED / IN-PERSON LEARNERS

**Blended/in-person students** are expected to attend school, in-person, Monday-Thursday, unless ill, or for an excusable reason. The students will learn from home (**Remote Learning**) on Fridays, accessing assignments and content on their devices, using the **LMS**. Teachers will post times for video/audio conferencing to provide support. All assignments given on remote learning days **will count** toward grading.

### VIRTUAL LEARNERS

**Virtual students** are expected to log-in to the virtual portal each day and engage in the assigned courses. They must also respond to any teacher communications. If the student is unable to log-in, due to illness or appointments, they should send a message to their virtual teacher(s). If the student is unable to log-in, due to Internet/power outages, the student/family may notify the teacher when service is restored. Learners are to follow the suggested pacing to stay on track for course completion. There will be an expected length of time the learner is active each day. It is best to participate during the regularly scheduled school day to have access to live interaction with virtual teachers. However, since the curriculum is always available, virtual learners have flexibility, so the times they participate are compatible with family schedules. Students/families can always communicate questions to teachers using the email tool. Virtual students may only return as in-person learners during the first two weeks of instruction or wait until the new semester begins.

# SCHOOL RE-ENTRY METRICS AND PROTOCOLS

West Virginia's school re-entry is guided by metrics developed by the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (WVDHHR). Based on a four-color system - green, yellow, orange and red - each county is assigned a color based on the prevalence of COVID-19 within their borders.

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## COLOR CODES EXPLAINED FOR IN-PERSON AND ATHLETICS/EXTRACURRICULAR

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### GREEN

#### For In-Person Instruction

*Minimal Community Transmission*  
**3 or FEWER CASES PER 100,000 PEOPLE**

- Continue best health practices to prevent the spread of disease as outlined in the WVDE Re-entry Toolkit which can be found [here](#).
- Require face coverings\* for grades 3 and above on buses and in congregant settings (outside of core groups) where social distancing cannot be maintained.
- Limit activities where social distancing is not feasible.
- Engage community to actively participate in continued mitigation.
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#### For Athletic and Extracurricular Activities

- Athletic and extra-curricular activities permit immediate household family members only.
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### YELLOW

#### For In-Person Instruction

*Increased Community Transmission*  
**3.1-9.9 CASES PER 100,000 PEOPLE**

- Require face coverings for grades 3-5 on buses and in congregant settings (outside of core groups) where social distancing cannot be maintained. Require face coverings for grades 6 and above at all times.
- Increase student cohorting by limiting exposure outside of core groups.
- No assemblies or activities where social distancing is not feasible.
- Local education leaders work with county health officials to determine if increased mitigation and community engagement activities are necessary to prevent escalation of disease.

## For Athletic and Extracurricular Activities

- Athletic and extra-curricular activities permit parents/guardians only.

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## ORANGE

### For In-Person Instruction

*Heightened Community Transmission*  
**10-24.9 CASES PER 100,000 PEOPLE**

- Require face coverings for grades 3 and above at all times.
- No assemblies or large group activities.
- Local county education leaders will work collaboratively with local health departments to implement aggressive mitigation measures both in schools and in communities.

## For Athletic and Extracurricular Activities

- Athletic and extracurricular activities limited to controlled practices/activities only.

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## RED

### For In-Person Instruction

*Substantial Community Transmission*  
**25+ CASES PER 100,000 PEOPLE**

- Suspend in-person instruction and all school-related activities until yellow level is maintained on a seven-day rolling basis.
- Activate remote learning.
- Staff continues essential student support services including meals, student engagement and special education services.

## For Athletic and Extracurricular Activities

- All school-related athletic and extracurricular activities are suspended until yellow level is maintained on a seven-day rolling basis.

### DHHR Live Map

To view the live daily updates from WVDHHR, please visit <https://dhhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/Pages/default.aspx> and click the **County Alert System** tab.

**SEE THE WVDE WEEKLY METRIC MAP**

[CLICK HERE](#)