Mingo County School District’s mask requirements will be guided by the current public health guidelines and the West Virginia Department of Education School Recovery and Guidance.

**WVDE COVID Guidance February 24, 2022**

Mingo County School District will implement a universal mask policy to provide a safer school environment for students and staff and to minimize the disruption of instruction and learning, whenever the DHHR map color is red, orange, or gold.

**Pre-K-12 and Adult Students, Staff, and Visitors**

- All staff, students, and visitors, regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status, are required to wear masks indoors.
- Students with certain developmental or behavioral needs may not be required to wear a mask. Accommodations will be determined on an individual basis. Students applying for a medical exemption will be required to submit a Request for Face Covering Exemption Form completed by a healthcare provider.
- Employees must submit to their supervisor a Request for Face Covering Exemption Form completed by a healthcare provider if their condition prohibits them from wearing a face mask.
- All staff and students, regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status, are required to wear masks on school buses unless an exemption has been approved.
• Music, band, and choir classes will proceed as normal except for singers, who must wear a mask while rehearsing indoors.
• As per CDC guidelines, gaiters and face shields are not approved substitutes for a face mask.
• A staff member who is alone in their classroom or workspace may remove their mask if no other students or staff are present.
• Students are not required to wear a face mask while actively eating or drinking during school mealtimes.
• Masks must be worn indoors by all visitors and attendees of school functions, meetings, activities, and indoor sporting events.
• If Mingo County is designated Green or Yellow on the WV DHHR (Department of Health and Human Resources) Map for a period of not less than 5 consecutive days, the protocol for mask choice will be implemented.

PreK Students and Staff

• Pre-K students are required to wear face masks throughout the day, with the knowledge and understanding of what is developmentally appropriate for this age group. Teachers will communicate to parents/guardians that there will be a learning period for young children. Parents of Pre-K students are asked to send their child to school with a face mask, but face masks will be provided for any student who may need one. Students will be taught and encouraged with positive reinforcement.
• All PreK staff and visitors, regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status, are required to wear masks in school buildings unless an exemption has been granted.