



MINGO COUNTY SCHOOLS UNIVERSAL MASK GUIDELINES

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.