

Ready. Set. Start Smart!

Mercer County Schools' Roadmap for Reopening



2020-2021 School Year

Parent & Student Edition



Parents: Make the Choice That is Right and Safe for Your Child:

Option 1: If I plan for my child(ren) to return to a traditional classroom setting when school resumes on September 8, 2020, they will commit to following the safety guidelines outlined in this packet to protect themselves, their peers, and their teachers.

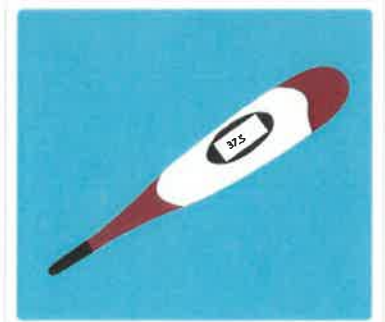
Option 2: If I plan to enroll my child(ren) in virtual school for full-time, independent learning for the 2020-2021 school year, I will register with West Virginia Virtual School (WVVS) by filling out the application at <https://tinyurl.com/virtualschoolsapplication>. If you have additional questions, please email mercercountyvirtualschool@groups.k12.wv.us.

Students: Getting Ready and to School Safely:

- ⇒ Before I come to school, my parent/guardian will check my temperature and assess my symptoms; if I have a fever of 100.4 or higher, or a cough, shortness of breath, or loss of taste or smell, or if I have been in direct contact with someone who has Covid-19, I will stay home and contact my medical provider.
- ⇒ When waiting for the bus, I will practice social distancing and wear my face covering.
- ⇒ I will use hand sanitizer as I board the bus, and on the bus, I will wear my face covering and sit no more than two to a seat. My bus will be cleaned nightly.
- ⇒ If I ride a car to school, my parent or guardian will drop me off in the car rider area; parents will not be able to walk me to my classroom.



Mercer County Schools' complete re-entry plan can be found on our website, <https://boe.merc.k12.wv.us/> and our Facebook page.



Students: Safety at School

- ⇒ When I arrive at school, I may have my temperature checked by staff. I will wear my face covering and report to my classroom.
- ⇒ I will bring a water bottle to school, as water fountains will be closed for regular use; water bottle refilling stations will be available at each school.
- ⇒ When I am moving about the classroom, if I cannot social distance, I will wear my face covering.
- ⇒ When I am in the classroom, I may remove my face covering when working independently at my desk or when the teacher is providing whole group instruction. I will wear my face covering when working in small groups with the teacher or my peers. Desks and tables will be spaced four feet apart and will face in one direction.
- ⇒ I will wash my hands frequently or use hand sanitizer throughout the day.
- ⇒ When I am changing classes or going to a special area class, I will wear my mask and practice social distancing. I will follow one-directional signs in hallways and stairways.
- ⇒ When I am in music, band, or choir classes, I will practice social distancing and wear my face covering when singing.
- ⇒ Access to school buildings will be limited. Parent conferences and meetings are by appointment only. Parents are required to wear masks while in the building, and their temperature will be taken upon arrival. Mercer County Schools encourages telephone conferences/meetings as much as possible.



Parents and Students: Safety Procedures for Everyone

- ⇒ Field Trips will be limited to virtual learning opportunities.
- ⇒ No assemblies, pep rallies, or other special events that require large amounts of people in the same area.
- ⇒ Any student or staff member traveling internationally or on cruise ships will be expected to self-quarantine for 14 days upon return to the United States, based on federal and state executive orders. Students will be provided an opportunity to continue learning during the quarantine period through Schoology or paper packets with instructional support. Staff members will use personal, sick, or vacation leave during the quarantine period.
- ⇒ Parents picking up a child for early dismissal or a sick child must ring the bell at the main entrance of the school and remain outside. The office staff will ask for information and then bring the child out to the parent. There is no dismissal within 15 minutes of the regular end of the school day unless picking up a sick child.
- ⇒ The school nurse/office staff will have a designated isolation area in the event that a child or staff member comes to school and presents Covid-19 symptoms. Parents will be contacted to pick ill students up immediately. Contact tracing will be used to identify students or staff members who may need to self-quarantine for 14 days. Students will transition to remote learning during the self-quarantine period using Schoology.
- ⇒ All buildings and work spaces will be thoroughly cleaned nightly. Common touch areas will be cleaned throughout the day.



Minimizing Exposure

Social Distancing:

- ⇒ Provide social distancing floor/seating markings in waiting and reception areas.
- ⇒ Mark or designate six feet of spacing to remind students and staff to always stay six feet apart in lines and at other times when they may congregate.
- ⇒ Limit nonessential visitors and activities involving external groups or organizations.
- ⇒ Monitor arrival and dismissal of students to discourage congregating and ensure students report directly to classrooms or designated areas.
- ⇒ Parent/guardian meetings, IEPs, and other necessary meetings will be conducted over the telephone. Special circumstances may require scheduling an in-person meeting, but social distancing guidelines will be followed and masks worn.
- ⇒ Student desks/seating will be arranged in a way that students will all be facing the same direction.
- ⇒ Hallways/stairwells will be designated as one-way with directional reminders posted on the walls and/or floor.
- ⇒ Reducing the number of students in each class will allow for social distancing within the classroom.
- ⇒ Teachers' classrooms may be moved so that student travel from class to class will be limited to a certain area of the building to minimize hallway traffic and interaction between groups.
- ⇒ There will be no field trips or assemblies to ensure there are no large gatherings of students at any time.
- ⇒ Buses will load/unload one to two at a time to prevent large groups of students from congregating. Students will be released from their last classroom of the day by bus, so hallways are not crowded. Parent pick-ups and walkers will be released once the majority of buses are gone.

Minimizing Exposure, Continued

Masks:

- ⇒ Face coverings are required of all staff when they cannot provide instruction in a socially distanced manner.
- ⇒ All students are required to wear face coverings unless medically waived when outside of their core classroom group or in congregant areas such as hallways, restrooms, and school buses. Teachers in grades 3 and up may request students wear face coverings in the classroom at any time.
- ⇒ Masks for students in grades K-2 are recommended in the classroom when social distancing cannot be maintained.
- ⇒ Face coverings will be required for all staff and students on bus (exceptions if required for special needs students) if six feet of social distancing is impractical on the school bus.
- ⇒ Any student who refuses to wear a face covering when required or asked and does not have documentation from a doctor stating medical reasons prohibiting the use of face coverings, will be required to transition to remote learning.

Important: The guidance in this document is subject to change as additional information about the spread and prevention of Covid-19 is known. New directives from Governor Jim Justice and public health officials may be forthcoming and may evolve prior to the start of the school year or during the school year. County boards of education must be prepared to alter their learning plans to comply with any new directives and to best safeguard student health and learning needs.

