

## **MASK MANDATE RESOLUTION**

This resolution shall be effective from August 11, 2021 until the end of the 2021-2022 school year. The resolution will provide an avenue to review the district mask mandate as data is reported on a daily and weekly basis by West Memphis School District administrators and the West Memphis School District Board of Directors.

The West Memphis School District administrators and board of directors will consider the recommendations and guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH), the Arkansas Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and other local health officials in the decision making process as well as the current level of Covid-19 in our district and community in making the decision for any possible revisions during the year.

Due to the ever-changing nature of the Covid-19 virus, the Superintendent of Schools is authorized to immediately modify this resolution requirements, on a temporary basis, as necessary to comply with updated guidance, orders and directives from the Arkansas court system, the Governor of Arkansas, CDC, ADH or DESE.

The mask mandate will apply to all students, employees, and adults on a school campus.

### **FACE COVERINGS FOR STUDENTS**

All students in Pre-Kindergarten through the 12<sup>th</sup> grade will be required to wear a face covering regardless of vaccination status:

- (a) While attending school or a school function inside any school building, facility or other area of a school campus, and
- (b) when riding in school-provided transportation.

All masks and face coverings must cover the nose and mouth of the student.

Students shall wear mask and face coverings at all times except for the following:

- Students may remove masks and face coverings for eating and drinking.
- Students may remove masks and face coverings when appropriate social distancing measures are in place as determined by a West Memphis School District staff member.
- Students may be exempt from this Mask Mandate by the school administration due to a documented medical condition and/or special behavioral or individualized needs of the student.
- Students may remove masks and face coverings on a case-by-case basis for specific instructional needs, including: recess, physical education, extracurricular, and athletic activities, as determined by a West Memphis School District staff member.

Students who fail to wear face coverings when necessary under this Mask Mandate could be subject to measures consistent with District Policy.

### **EMPLOYEES**

All district employees will be required to wear a mask or face covering regardless of vaccination status while working or attending a school function in any school building, facility or other area of a school campus. All masks and face coverings must cover the nose and mouth of the employee:

- (a) While attending school or a school function inside any school building, facility or other area of a school campus.

Employees shall wear face coverings at all times except for the following:

- Employees may remove masks and face coverings for eating and drinking.
- Employees may remove masks and face coverings when appropriate social distancing measures are in place – i.e. working in an office; or outside away from others.
- Employees may be exempted from this mask mandate by the Superintendent due to a documented medical condition of the employee.

Employees who fail to wear face coverings when necessary at school or at school functions under this mask mandate could be subject to measures consistent with District Policy.

\*Masks will only be mandated at large indoor events where social distancing is not possible. Masks will not be required at outdoor activities.