

2021-2022 Reopening Mitigation Plan

Purpose:

Vernon Elementary School District takes a layered approach to protect students and staff from the spread of COVID-19. Their health and safety are at the heart of our planning. We've learned to be resilient and adaptable to changing conditions. As a result, this plan will require close monitoring, and it may change as needed.

New for This Year: Our Mask Policy

Masks will be optional but recommended for the 2021-2022 school year. The Centers for Disease Control continues to recommend mask use in schools. Each individual's choice around masks will be respected.

If COVID Cases Increase:

Additional mitigation strategies may be implemented in the event that COVID-19 cases increase in our community and in our school. In the absence of specific mitigation requirements by the Arizona Department of Health Services or by Executive Order, VESD may consider revising the following mitigation strategies, depending on local conditions.

2021-2022
VESD Mitigation Strategies

Athletic Activities	VESD follows mitigation protocols based on Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) guidelines. The middle school will inform athletes of these protocols during each sport's season.
Bell Schedule	The school bell schedule will be communicated in your Student Handbook at Open House and on the school website
Benchmarks (Covid 19)	VESD follows the Arizona Department of Health Services dashboard as well as our own district data.
Classroom Materials and Textbooks	VESD allows shared materials, with hand hygiene mitigation in place.
Classroom Supplies	Classrooms have soap and/or hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol, paper towels, tissues, and other cleaning supplies.
Cleaning and Disinfecting	High touch point surfaces are disinfected daily.
Close Contacts	Any person who is in close contact with a person who tests positive for COVID-19 is subject to quarantine. The CDC defines close contact as being within 6 feet of a person with COVID-19 for more than 15 minutes during a 24-hour period. Fully-vaccinated persons are not subject to quarantine
Closing & Reopening Schools	The VESD superintendent has the authority to determine school closure and reopening. In the event of a school closure, staff and families will be notified via School Messenger (email), and all communication will be posted on school and district websites.
Community Schools Activities	All activities will resume, including before- and after-school programs, enrichment activities, outdoor camps, and more. Events Student assemblies, special performances, school-wide parent meetings, spirit rallies, and other events are permitted, with site approval.
Facilities Rentals	Rentals of school facilities will resume, with site approval.
Field Trips	Field trips may be permitted, with school-level approval for day trips VESD Governing Board approval for trips beyond the school day

Food Service	VEDS serves grab-and-go meals with disposable food service items. Students are not allowed to share food.
Hand Hygiene	All classrooms have sinks for handwashing. Hand sanitizer is also available in areas without sinks.
Isolation Rooms	Symptomatic students will be isolated on campus. Symptoms may include: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, and new loss of taste or smell. Parents/legal guardians are expected to pick up symptomatic students immediately.
Masks	Masks are optional but recommended. Each individual's choice around mask-wearing will be respected. Masks will be available for those students who forget to bring a mask to school but would like to wear one.
Outdoor Spaces	Where appropriate, outdoor learning spaces will be utilized.
Parent/Legal Guardian Conferences	Remote or in-person conferences are available upon request.
Physical Barriers	Physical Barriers Plexiglass barriers will remain in place in food service areas.
Physical Distancing	Physical distancing will be maintained, where feasible.
Positive COVID-19 Notifications	In the event of a close contact, schools notify parents/legal guardians and/or staff members of possible exposure and provide guidance on subsequent steps.
Quarantine & Isolation	See the VEDS Isolation Decision Matrix (at the end of the document) for current quarantine and isolation procedures.
Recess	School recess follows pre-COVID-19 procedures.
Remote Instruction	VEDS schools are fully in-person. Instruction is not offered remotely.
Self-Reporting	Students or staff who have symptoms of COVID-19, a positive test for COVID-19, or who were exposed to someone with COVID-19 within the last 14 days must notify their school's administration.
Student Pick-Up and Drop-Off	Schools will determine student drop-off and pick-up procedures.

Technology	Chromebooks will not be checked out to students for use at Home. Devices are available to students while on campus, as needed.
Testing (RAPID) for COVID	Rapid (or point-of-care) tests are diagnostic tests performed at many pharmacies, health care providers, and other locations in our area. They provide results within minutes rather than hours. To schedule an appointment at a rapid testing facility, search online for Rapid COVID-19 Testing Near Me. In the event of COVID-19 exposure or COVID-like symptoms, a negative test result can reduce time away from school.
Transportation	On school buses, windows will be open and students will be seated apart, where possible. We will resume school-sponsored transportation for extracurricular activities, when necessary.
Vaccinated Staff and Students	Fully vaccinated staff and students must follow all mitigation Strategies. Symptomatic vaccinated staff and students still need to isolate. However, in the event of a close contact, staff and students do not need to quarantine.
Ventilation	VESD ensures that ventilation systems provide sufficient indoor air quality for the current occupancy level for each space.
Visitors	Visitors are allowed on campus, with site approval.
Volunteers	Volunteers are permitted on campus per the school's request.
Water Fountains	Drinking fountains will be available for bottle refills only. Students and staff are encouraged to bring their own water bottles.
Waiver	A signed COVID-19 Waiver, Release and Assumption of Risk form or a student handbook acknowledgement form verifying agreement with the Notice of COVID-19 Waiver and Release is required for each student.

COVID-19 Isolation Decision Matrix

Has the student had close contact* to a confirmed COVID-19 case?

Yes	No
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Is the student symptomatic?	Is the student symptomatic?
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Yes	No	Yes	No
<p>Have the student Isolate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If identified on campus, make sure student is wearing a face mask and is placed in isolation room. - Student cannot come back on campus until they fulfill the Return-to-School Guidance. - - Offer appropriate accommodations (e.g., excused attendance, learning from home, etc). Identify students or staff with exposure to the symptomatic student 48 hours prior to student showing symptoms (follow Decision Matrix). - - -Notify parents. Notify parent all other children in the household need to be picked up from school immediately to quarantine, if unvaccinated. If the parent is a VESD employee s/he will quarantine, if unvaccinated. - - Symptomatic student/guardian needs to consult medical provider and follow Return-To-School Guidance 	<p>Have the student quarantine for 14 days, if unvaccinated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -If identified on campus, make sure student is wearing a face mask and is placed in isolation room. - Student cannot come back on campus until they fulfill the Return-to-School Guidance. - Begin quarantine 14 days** from last known close contact with the known COVID19 case regardless of negative test results or illness where no testing was performed. -Should parents ask about testing, to obtain the most accurate COVID-19 testing results, CDC recommends testing for COVID-19 4-6 days after exposure. -If symptoms develop, see YES box. 	<p>Have the student isolate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -If identified on campus, make sure student is wearing a face mask and is placed in isolation room. -Notify parents child is symptomatic. Notify parent all other children in the household need to be picked up from school immediately to quarantine if they are unvaccinated. If the parent is a VESD employee s/he will quarantine if unvaccinated. - Student cannot come back on campus until they fulfill the Return-to-School Guidance. - Offer appropriate accommodations (e.g., excused attendance, learning from home, etc). -Recommend symptomatic student/guardian consult medical provider 	<p>Have the student continue to come to school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Face coverings are recommended while on campus. -Student and/or parent will monitor for symptoms. -If symptoms develop, see YES box

Based on current CDC guidance - updated by VESD on 07/28/2021
 ** See "release from quarantine" below for exemptions and shortened quarantine options.

COVID-19 Return-to-School Guidance

Release from Isolation

Was the student tested for COVID-19?

A person who has symptoms needs to isolate. *If the student is currently symptomatic and awaiting test results, they should stay home and away from others, then follow the guidance below, based on their results.

Yes

No



What was the test result?



<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Positive</u></p> <p>ISOLATE until ALL the following are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -It has been at least 10 days* since symptoms appeared -No fever for 24 hours** - Other symptoms have improved 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Negative</u></p> <p>ISOLATE until ALL the following are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -No fever for 24 hours** -Other symptoms have improved 	<p>ISOLATE until ALL the following are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -It has been at least 10 days * since symptoms appeared -No fever for 24 hours ** -Other symptoms have improved
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**Without the use of medicines that reduce fevers

*A person who had severe/critical illness or is severely immunocompromised should:

If symptomatic, stay home away from others under isolation precautions until:

At least 20 days have passed since symptoms first appeared; AND

At least 24 hours have passed since last fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers; AND

Other symptoms have improved.

If asymptomatic, stay home away from others or under isolation precautions until:

At least 20 days have passed since the first positive COVID-19 testing while asymptomatic. If symptoms develop, follow guidance for symptomatic and tested positive for COVID-19.

COVID-19 Return-to-School Guidance

Release from Quarantine

Fully vaccinated individuals can refrain from quarantine following a known exposure, if asymptomatic. Other persons, who are not yet ill, who had known close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case should quarantine for 8-14 days from the last exposure to the case regardless of negative test results or illness where no testing was performed. However, if they test positive for COVID-19, they should follow the relevant isolation guidance.

Is the exposed person:

Fully vaccinated (i.e., at least two weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or one dose of a single-dose vaccine)? Have remained asymptomatic since the current COVID-19 exposure?



No	Yes
<p>Does the exposed person:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Not live in a congregate setting; AND-Has no clinical evidence of COVID-19 that has been elicited by daily symptom monitoring during the entirety of quarantine up to the time at which quarantine is discontinued; AND-Will be able to perform daily symptom monitoring continuing through quarantine Day 14; AND-Will strictly adhere to all recommended non-pharmaceutical interventions (e.g., correct and consistent mask use, physical distancing) continues through quarantine Day 14.	<p>They are not required to quarantine.</p> <p>It is recommended to be tested 3-5 days after exposure, and to wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result.</p>



Yes	No
<p>Quarantine can end after Day 10 without testing if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-No symptoms have been reported during daily monitoring.	<p>Quarantine for 14 days</p>



Or
<p>Quarantine can end after Day 7 if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-A negative PCR test result was received that was administered 48 hours before the time of planned shortened quarantine AND- No symptoms were observed during daily monitoring. Quarantine can end after Day 7 if: <p>*Quarantine cannot be discontinued earlier than after day 7. *Specimen must be collected and tested no earlier than day 5 (48 hours prior to day 7).</p>

If symptoms develop, they should immediately self-isolate and contact the health department or their healthcare provider to report this change in clinical status.