

Important Re-Opening of School Information Vernon Township School District January, 2021

We are excited to be making plans to return to school for in person instruction! It is important, however, to be mindful of the fact that we are in an ongoing second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic. In school-age children, signs/symptoms are often mild, and it may not be possible to clinically distinguish COVID-19 from other illnesses. For this reason, as of January 1, 2021, the NJ Department of Health has recommended the following:

“Any child with COVID-19 compatible symptoms should not return to school until they have either received a negative viral test (molecular or antigen) for SARS-CoV-2 or they have completed an isolation period of at least 10 days since symptom onset and at least 24 hours after resolution of fever without fever-reducing medications with symptom improvement. A purely clinical alternative diagnosis is no longer acceptable.”

The following document is intended to give guidance for Return to School based upon the Covid 19 NJ state activity level. We are currently experiencing high activity which is indicated by the color “orange.” [Covid 19 activity level](#)

We are asking all parents/guardians to:

BEFORE SCHOOL

- Monitor symptoms at home daily and check temperature before school.
 - Students with a temperature of 100.0 F or higher must stay home from school and will require a doctor’s note to return to school.
 - Students must stay home if experiencing any symptoms. See symptom list:
[Covid symptoms in children/teens](#)
- Students must stay home if they have been identified as a close contact (closer than 6 ft. for longer than 15 minutes in a 24 hour period) with someone who has tested positive for Covid 19. Follow guidance provided by the local Health Department. Contact your health care provider and/or school nurse for clarification if needed.
- Students must stay home if they or someone in the household is being tested for Covid 19, due to illness, until the test results are received.
 - If any household member has symptoms, the entire household is to stay home from school/work until the symptomatic individual receives a negative Covid test result. If Covid testing is not performed, follow current quarantine guidelines.
 - If the test result for Covid is positive, the household members will be contacted by public health and will be advised to self quarantine for 14 days.
- Students and parents/guardians who have travelled to an area of a high level of Covid 19 transmission ([travel info](#)) must quarantine for 14 days upon return to New Jersey.
 - Parents/guardians should advise the school nurse of illness, known exposure, and/or travel to an area of high Covid transmission.
 - Parents/guardians will be advised of quarantine requirements as recommended by the Local Health Department, CDC, and the NJ Department of Health.

*****Please inform the school if your student is experiencing any symptoms.*****

SCHOOL DAY PROCEDURE

- All students will have a temperature check upon arrival to school.
- Masks are to be properly worn by all individuals throughout the school day.
 - An MD note excluding a student from wearing a mask must be provided to the school, if a student can not wear a mask due to medical reasons.

- Vented masks are not permitted.
- **Only two layer gaiters are permitted**
- Students are encouraged to sanitize their hands with sanitizer upon entering school and to wash/sanitize their hands frequently throughout the day.
 - Hand sanitizer stations are available at school entrances and throughout the buildings.
- Students will maintain social distancing from others, 6 feet apart, whenever feasible.
- Students will utilize extra PPE provided by the school district (i.e. plastic desk barriers) appropriately.

WHEN ILLNESS OCCURS AT SCHOOL

- The school nurse will assess the student for symptoms, possible exposure to a Covid case, illness at home, and/or recent travel to an area of high Covid activity.
- If a student is exhibiting any Covid-19 compatible symptoms of illness (see below) or any of the answers to questions above are “yes”, the student will be sent home.
 - **At least two of the following symptoms: fever (measured or subjective), chills/shivers, muscle aches, headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion or runny nose; OR**
 - **At least one of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new loss of smell or taste.**
- The student will be escorted to the “waiting area” away from others and monitored by a school employee.
- The student will be escorted to the main lobby for pick up once their parent/guardian arrives.
- The parent/guardian will be advised to contact their healthcare provider for evaluation. Students with Covid-19 symptoms will be advised to receive Covid-19 testing.
- The local health department may be notified.
- The waiting area will be disinfected per school protocol.
- **Since we are “**ORANGE**,” all siblings/other VTSD students or staff member(s) residing in the same household as the individual with suspected Covid, must also be picked up/sent home from Vernon schools, pending further evaluation of the symptomatic student.*

FOLLOW UP

- Parents/guardians will be contacted by the VTSD Covid Coordinator, Kim Muller RN.
- In conjunction with the local Public Health Department, instructions will be reviewed regarding quarantine times, testing and health department recommendations.
- Covid test results should be emailed to Ms. Muller at kmuller@vtsd.com or faxed to 973-764-0858.

- Per VTSD policy, a re-entry meeting for the student will be scheduled by Ms. Muller in conjunction with the parent/guardian and may include a member of the guidance staff and/or a school administrator prior to the student returning to school as necessary.

****Although there are special circumstances where the quarantine period may be shortened, the school districts are excluded from that provision. VTSD still follows the 14 day quarantine period as outlined by the CDC.****

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your student's school nurse or administrator. Members of the VTSD community will continue to be kept apprised of Covid cases and quarantine requirements by Ms. D'Avino and Dr. McKay.