



## VERNON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

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July 12, 2021

Dear Vernon Families, Faculty, Students, and Staff,

This correspondence will outline key points that were board approved in June for the Vernon Township School District Safe Return plan as well as outline some of the recommendations set forth by Governor Murphy, the New Jersey Department of Education and the New Jersey Department of Health in *The Road Forward*, published at the end of June, 2021.

In September, 2021 when schools reopen and students return to school, we anticipate the following:

- ***VTSD will not require students, staff, faculty or visitors/volunteers to wear masks; however, mask wearing is encouraged for those not fully vaccinated.*** Please Note: This may change based on Executive Orders or guidance from the CDC or Department of Health.
- ***Temperatures will not be taken*** as students arrive at school. All families are expected to ***self-screen*** children prior to beginning the school day. Please keep ill children home. Additional Health Office information is accessible for each school under the school's website.
- VTSD will ***not be using cohorts*** in September, 2021. All students are expected to attend school for full day attendance and instruction.
- ***Physical distancing of 3 feet*** will be maintained where practicable.
- Screens ***will not*** be used to partition students/faculty from one another.
- Use of outdoor classrooms/tents are highly encouraged for lunches/outdoor learning spaces when possible.
- ***Handwashing and the use of hand sanitizer will be strongly encouraged and embedded into regular practice in our schools.***
- We will continue using Victory sprayers in the evening after students have left in order to disinfect classrooms.
- Windows shall be opened in classrooms (weather permitting) to maximize fresh air flow. School security measures will be addressed or implemented to maintain student and staff safety.
- Attention will be paid to upgrading ventilation systems to improve air flow for faculty, students, and staff.
- Each school will maintain a location for isolation and/or quarantine should the need arise.
- Schools will continue their ability to contact trace by utilizing seating charts and other mechanisms developed by teachers and administrators in order to assist the Department of Health in investigating any

possible COVID cases

- ***PLEASE NOTE:*** The State's Road Forward indicates that masks or barriers do not preclude close contacts. (The definition of a close contact changes depending on CALI index scores for our region) Close contacts will still need to be quarantined for 10 or 14 days (depending on CALI index for the region). ***The only persons who will not need to quarantine will be those who are fully vaccinated.***
- ***Remote learning will not be offered during the 2021-2022 school year*** however if a child is quarantined for 10 or 14 days, school work will be provided for them while they are absent.
- VTSD has requested the use of the Binax rapid test kits to identify COVID infections more quickly. Since the district has not yet received their allocation of test kits, additional information is forthcoming re: how and when to administer tests, parent permission, etc.
- All students with disabilities will receive reasonable accommodations or modifications as it relates to their Individualized Education Plan.
- Case managers and special education personnel will continue to work with families to ensure the needs of our students with disabilities are met.

The Vernon Township School District's Safe Return Plan details can be found [here](#). While we anticipate a more normal return to school in September, we continue to ask for flexibility and patience as it is impossible to know what the school year holds in regards to COVID variants. Our goals are to continue to provide as much support and communication to you as possible.

Sincerely,

*Karen D'Avino*

Karen D'Avino  
Superintendent of Schools

*Charles McKay*

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Assistant Superintendent of Schools