



VERNON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
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Dear Parents/Guardians,

As guidelines from the NJDOH continue to change regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, this correspondence as well as [this](#) link from our district website will keep you up to date with current information.

The NJDOH released guidance on January 19, 2022 which changes the guidelines for when a student needs to quarantine or isolate. Since it is important to most families to have your children in school, we wanted to share this guidance with you.

COVID-19 exclusion criteria for close contacts (quarantine) guidance:

Exposed close contacts who have no COVID-19 compatible symptoms in the following groups should be excluded from school:

- Age 12 or older who completed the primary series of a recommended COVID-19 vaccine, but have not received a recommended booster shot when eligible.
- Persons who are not fully vaccinated

This means that if your child received the vaccine and was previously considered “vaccinated”, they are no longer considered “fully vaccinated” unless they receive the booster shot. If you wish for your child to remain in school and not be quarantined if they are a close contact, they must be boosted as well (when eligible). Students aged 12-17 may receive the booster shot five months after their second shot of the Pfizer vaccine.

Those children who are not fully vaccinated will still be required to quarantine if they are a close contact. As you know, the quarantine time has been reduced to five days if the following criteria are met:

- Ill students are able to fully isolate from others at home, wearing a mask at all times possible
 - Unvaccinated asymptomatic siblings of ill students must also adhere to the 5 day quarantine (as outlined below).

- All symptoms such as cough, sore throat, headache etc. must greatly improve prior to returning to school on Day 6 and children must be fever free.
 - Please note, a doctor's note is required to return to school if the child has received an alternative diagnosis.
 - **PLEASE NOTE**: If your child has symptoms, they must take a PCR test **OR** receive an alternate diagnosis from your physician **OR** stay home for five days (until symptoms are greatly reduced) before returning to school.
 - **If your child is not feeling well, please keep them home.**
 - As has been our district's practice, pre-Covid, a child must have a doctor's note to return to school after having had a fever. Students need to return to school fever free for at least 24 hours without medication.
- On day 6, if students are well enough to return to school (symptoms greatly reduced), they must continue to wear a mask on days 6-10.

It is important that if your child tests positive for COVID, you should let your school nurse know immediately so that contact tracing of other students can begin. Also, if you are planning on traveling, please notify your school nurse and advise them of your date of return to New Jersey. All families who might be traveling should familiarize themselves with vaccination and quarantine requirements for travelers.

Thank you for your continued flexibility adhering to the pandemic guidelines set forth by the NJDOH.

Sincerely,

Karen D'Avino

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Superintendent of Schools

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Assistant Superintendent of Schools