



VERNON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
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January 12, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The New Jersey Department of Health has updated their quarantining and isolation guidance as it pertains to managing the COVID-19 pandemic in schools. Since Omicron has a shorter incubation period (2-4 days), the quarantine window has been reduced by the NJDOH to match the CDC's guidance. Here are the key changes for your children:

Effective January 11, 2022:

- If you are COVID positive, the quarantine has been reduced from 10 days to 5 days. You may return to school, masked, only if you are symptom free. Return to school on day six.
- “Fully vaccinated” (ages 18 or over) now means you have had a booster shot as well as the original vaccines. A letter has gone out to any High School seniors who are eighteen years old who attend Vernon Township High School informing them of this change.
- For unvaccinated individuals, instead of quarantining for 10 days or 14 days, students can return after five days. They can return on day 6 but must return symptom free or have a negative COVID test result. Due to the unavailability of tests, testing to return is recommended, not required. It is **essential, however, that students are symptom free**.
 - Upon return on day six, a well fitting mask must be worn consistently at school for the next five days. Even when eating, students should use caution and wear a mask as much as possible. Students should continue to physically distance themselves.
- Fully vaccinated students (under the age of 18) without a booster shot do not need to quarantine unless they are showing symptoms.
- (Please see the attached reference sheet to assist you)

For those community members, parents, guardians or children who wish to receive the COVID vaccine or the booster, clinics are available at the Sussex County Fairgrounds on Thursday, January 13 from 2-5 p.m. and Saturday, January 15 from 9-12 p.m. The link is [here](#) for more information. The district is still adhering to recent travel guidelines and restrictions to the best of our ability.

The high levels of transmissibility of the Omicron variant and the effect on school and county resources coupled with lack of test availability and individuals unable to test, have left many cases

unreported to the Sussex County Department of Health. Due to this impact on our county health system, test results have often been significantly delayed and it has impacted the ability of our nurses to adequately contact trace. Due to the overwhelming strain on all resources in our schools, including nurses, school administrators, and contact tracers you will be receiving automated calls to inform you of some information. Please note that our administration, nurses and contact tracers are always available to assist you. Using remote calling will allow school officials time to explain quarantine, isolation or testing parameters to families who have questions while keeping other families without questions informed via an automated call.

Lastly, our Academic Mentors are still available to assist students who are quarantining. If you need assistance, please click [here](#). If your child is ill, keep them home. For those families who choose to keep a child home for a ten day quarantine, even when only five days are now required, your child will be marked remote present. The absence will not count against them.

Thank you for continuing to work with the Vernon Township School District as we navigate through the pandemic crisis.

Sincerely,

Karen D'Avino

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Superintendent of Schools

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