



VERNON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

P.O. Box 99/625 Route 517, Vernon, NJ 07462

Phone: 973-764-2900 Fax: 973-764-0033 Web: www.vtsd.com

Karen D'Avino
Superintendent of
Schools
kdavino@vtsd.com

Charles McKay, D.Litt.
Assistant Superintendent
cmckayl@vtsd.com

January 2, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This correspondence is to provide information regarding the reopening of the Vernon Township School District on January 3, 2022 after our Winter Recess. Over the Holiday break the CALI (Coronavirus Activity Level Report) for Sussex County entered the “red” level along with several other counties in New Jersey. The Sussex County Department of Health is not recommending closure at this time. In order to remain open, we will be employing layered strategies **and we must be vigilant** in our practices to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Parents **should not** send their child to school if they are sick. *Keeping children home for a few more days to get well is beneficial to all students and staff rather than exposing others to illness. **Children who are ill or exhibiting symptoms will be sent home.*** According to the current NJDOH guidelines, children who exhibit two of the following symptoms: fever, chills, rigors, muscle aches, headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion, runny nose or one of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing loss of taste or smell will be sent home. So will any siblings. Symptomatic individuals will need to isolate for **ten days**. Unvaccinated siblings will be sent home and vaccinated siblings should monitor for symptoms for 14 days from their last contact with the ill individual. All guidance from the NJDOH can be found [here](#). There was one update, which the district received on December 30, 2021 that can be found [here](#). The Vernon Township School District continues to follow the protocols and guidelines set forth by the NJDOH and the NJDOE.

Although the CDC has recently reduced the isolation time period to five days, that **has not** been authorized for school settings. The NJDOH is recommending a **ten day** quarantine period at this time.

In school the following protocols will be **strictly adhered** to:

- Masks must be worn properly at all times, covering the nose and mouth of the individual
- Masks must be worn on buses
- Physical distancing
- Frequent handwashing/hand sanitizing

While the district administration has had many educational conversations with children about the importance of mask wearing, it is imperative that masks be worn properly at all times, where applicable. Consequences may be

given for not following mask-wearing requirements. For High School students, there is additional information in the student handbook.

If you traveled over the Winter Break, please consider isolating if you are having symptoms. The guidance on travel is as follows:

Unvaccinated travelers or vaccinated travelers with symptoms should stay home and self-quarantine for a full 7 days, even if they test negative, and for 10 days if they are unable to test.

Before returning to school tomorrow, **please review expectations with your child**. Mask exhaustion is plaguing many of us. It is important, however, that children and adults continue to wear masks properly in school. This is for the benefit of children and staff, in order to reduce the spread of COVID. Wearing masks properly, at all times, can potentially reduce your child from being excluded from school. Please do not forget to emphasize **frequent hand washing and physical distancing**.

Our schools are also working on additional mitigation measures, where necessary. Therefore, there may be changes to procedures in your child's school. Please adhere to the changes the administration is requesting. *They are being implemented in order to keep our schools open, our students and staff safe, and reduce the spread of COVID-19.*

With the variant changes to this virus, the Sussex County Department of Health is urging families to get vaccinated if they choose and to test often. For vaccination information please [click here](#). For free at home testing, please [click here](#). These tests are confidential and you will receive a portal link with your results. Testing often is a good mitigation strategy. The Sussex County Department of Health is seeing positive test results in asymptomatic individuals as well as those with symptoms. Therefore, testing often is recommended.

Despite the continued challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, we look forward to seeing your children in school where we believe they learn best, among each other and our dedicated staff. The Vernon Township School District is wishing you a very Happy New Year. We hope, as we move through 2022 that the pandemic becomes something in our rearview mirror and each of you remain healthy and connected.

Sincerely,

Karen D'Avino

Karen D'Avino
Superintendent of Schools

Chuck McKay

Chuck McKay
Assistant Superintendent of Schools