



## VERNON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

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June 30, 2023

Dear Vernon Families, Faculty, Students, and Staff,

This correspondence will outline key points for the Vernon Township School District Safe Return plan for the 2023-2024 school year 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.

This year, we are doing the following:

- ***VTSD will not require students, staff, faculty or visitors/volunteers to wear masks.*** 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, 2023. All students are expected to attend school for full day attendance and instruction.
- ***Physical distancing of 3 feet*** will be maintained where practicable in the event of an outbreak.
- Screens ***will not*** be used to partition students/faculty from one another.
- ***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.
- 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 in the event of an outbreak.
- ***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) ***The only persons who will not need to quarantine will be those who are fully vaccinated.***
- ***Remote learning will not be offered during the 2023-2024 school year.***

- 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 this year, we continue to ask for flexibility and patience as it is impossible to know what the school year holds in regard to COVID variants. Our goals are to continue to provide as much support and communication to you as possible.

Sincerely,

*Russell Rogers*

Russell Rogers  
Superintendent of Schools

*Rosemary Gebhardt*

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Assistant Superintendent of Schools