



COVID-19 SAFE LEARNING PLAN

The VCS plan considers and follows the Minnesota Department of Education and Minnesota Department of Health guidance and resources.

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2021-22 School Year

Vermilion Country School (VCS) takes the health and safety of its students and staff seriously. The school is taking a tiered intervention approach to its COVID-19 protocols. Layered protection strategies, including regular cleaning, reinforced hand washing and other hygiene practices, will continue to be used in our building to reduce the risk of transmission.

VCS will monitor county and state levels closely throughout the year as part of its decision-making process in addition to collaborating with local and state health partners. Should COVID-19 cases increase, additional measures, including requiring masks, may need to be taken to protect the health and safety of our school and broader communities.

At present, VCS **does not require masks** for staff, students or visitors in our school building.

Buses

All people are required by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) order **to wear face coverings** on all public transportation, including **school buses**

Physical Distancing

- There will be no minimum distance requirement
- To the greatest extent possible, students will remain in smaller groups throughout the school day

Stay home when sick

- Students, teachers, and staff should stay home when they have signs of any infectious illness and should see their healthcare provider for testing and care
- Students or staff who become ill with COVID-like symptoms while in school will be sent home
- If students are sent home with (or are experiencing) COVID-like symptoms, they will be asked to produce a negative COVID test before returning to school. Test results (Rapid or PCR) must come from a medical/testing provider. Over the counter test results are not accepted
- The district will utilize the Minnesota Department of Health [Covid Decision Tree](#) as a guideline for those who have COVID-like symptoms

People who test positive for COVID-19

- People who clinically test positive for COVID-19 should stay at home (isolation) until all three of these are true:
 - They feel better. Their cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms are resolved; and,
 - It has been at least 10 days since they first felt sick or tested positive: and,

- They have had no fever for at least 24 hours, without using medicine that lowers fever
- Unvaccinated participants and staff who recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19 should stay home (quarantine) from the school and all other activities until they meet criteria to return. Quarantine criteria are discussed in the next section.

Quarantine Protocol

- Fully vaccinated people and those who have a clinically confirmed current positive SARS-COV-2 antibody test, and those who have had clinically-confirmed COVID-19 within the past 90-days are not recommended to quarantine, in most situations
- A 14-day quarantine is the safest recommendation for people who have been exposed to COVID-19
- It may be appropriate to use a shortened quarantine period of 7 or 10 days. The following section is required for a shortened quarantine period

Shortened Quarantine Period Protocol

The following form will be required prior to a quarantined student returning to school:

<p>Check the following that apply to your child (ALL must be checked to qualify):</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> My child has been clinically tested for COVID-19 at least five full days after quarantining and the test. Results are negative. (To qualify, the test must be a PCR/molecular test or a SARS_COV-2 laboratory culture- please check before testing to ensure it meets this requirement). Negative results with an appropriate date (5+ days after exposure) must be provided to the school with this form. *Please note: day one of your quarantine starts the day after the exposure to the COVID positive case.</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> My child has no symptoms.</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> No one in my child’s household has tested positive for COVID-19 or has symptoms of COVID-19.</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> After the 7-day quarantine, I agree to monitor my child for symptoms through day 14 and keep them home if any symptoms appear.</p>

Testing

- The district encourages regular testing for COVID-19 to help prevent symptomatic and asymptomatic transmission.

Vaccines

- Vaccines are strongly recommended for all eligible people

Other Mitigation Strategies

- Classrooms will continue to encourage hand washing and respiratory etiquette to minimize the spread of any infectious illness.
- The cleaning protocols followed in the prior year will continue