



Updated COVID-19 Response Plan for 2021-22 School Year March 2022

Introduction

The Vestal Central School District opened for full-time, in-person learning on September 9, 2021 with limited remote learning options. It is our number one priority to keep students and staff safe and physically present in school.

Vestal CSD is relying on parents and guardians to ensure that students are not experiencing signs or symptoms of COVID-19 before leaving home or boarding a school bus. Please refer to [COVID-19 Daily Screening Guidelines for Students](#). Likewise, we expect our staff to remain home should they be experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, as stated in [COVID-19 Daily Screening Guidelines for Staff](#). Students or their parents/guardians are required to notify their school health office when they develop symptoms. Staff are required to notify their school administrator if they develop symptoms.

We ask for your continued support and cooperation in following the guidelines detailed in the school response plan. Together, we are confident that we can make the remainder of the 2021-22 school year a success. Vestal CSD has designated Clifford Kasson, Deputy Superintendent, and Thomas Comerford III, Director of Special Services, to serve as COVID-19 safety coordinators, with the following responsibilities:

- Act as the main contacts upon the identification of positive COVID-19 cases and be responsible for subsequent communication.
- Ensure continuous compliance with all aspects of Vestal CSD's pandemic response.
- Act as the County, State, and Federal liaisons for all matters related to COVID-19.

Face Coverings

On February 27, 2022, Governor Kathy Hochul announced lifting of the mask mandate in schools, effective March 2, 2022.

Given the updated guidance, beginning March 2, 2022, masks became optional in all Vestal school buildings and on school buses. However, parents and guardians may still choose to send their children to school with masks.

Vestal CSD will continue to obtain and maintain an adequate supply of personal protective equipment (PPE), including masks, for use when requested.

Social Distancing

Social distancing, or physical distancing, means keeping at least three feet or more space between yourself and others, unless safety or the core function of the activity requires a shorter distance. All persons in Vestal CSD buildings will maintain social distance when practical.

School Schedules

All classes are in-person instruction, five days a week.

Returning to School after COVID-19 Illness

If a person with COVID-19 symptoms is not diagnosed as COVID-19 positive by a healthcare provider (physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant), they can return to school in coordination with the local health department.

If your student receives a positive COVID-19 test result, **do not send them to school**. Report the positive test result to your child's school nurse. If symptoms are improving by day 5, they may return to school on day 6 but will be required to wear a mask through day 10.

Management of Ill Individuals

Students with symptoms of illness will be sent to their school's Health Office. The school nurse will assess individuals for chronic conditions such as asthma, allergies, or gastrointestinal conditions that may present the same symptoms as COVID-19 but are neither contagious nor pose a public health threat. Students with a temperature or signs of illness will be sent directly to a dedicated isolation area for evaluation by the school nurse.

Staff who are ill with COVID-19 symptoms at work should notify their supervisor, leave the building, and follow up with their medical provider.

The Director of Special Services will notify the local health department when a positive case of COVID-19 is reported.

**Vestal CSD will continue to monitor CDC, NYS, and
Broome and Tioga County Health Department guidance.
THIS PLAN IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE IF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC PROGRESSES.**

<https://www.cdc.gov/>

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>

<https://www.gobroomecounty.com/hd/coronavirus>

Frequently Asked Questions

<https://www.vestal.stier.org/Downloads/UpdatedFAQs4Schools.pdf>

Important Documents are posted on our COVID-19 Information 2021-22 Web Page – www.vestal.stier.org/Back-to-School2021-22.aspx

We understand that a multitude of guidance, mandates, and other information has emerged over the course of this pandemic. We have condensed our informational web page so that the current pertinent information is in the center window, and obsolete documents are archived in the lower right window.

CHALLENGE

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SUPPORT

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