

Vienna High School District 13-3

2021-2022-LEA Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

This document is an ever changing outline based upon the recommendations and guidelines set forth by the CDC, Illinois State Board of Education and IDPH and may be updated based on school community, and county positivity numbers and after consultation with local public health officials. Modifications to this plan could include increased mitigation measures to decrease the spread of COVID-19, including but not limited to increasing social distancing and other appropriate mitigation measures. School strategies in this plan may be removed or increased based upon local conditions, levels of community transmission (i.e., low, moderate, substantial, or high), local vaccine coverage, use of screening testing to detect cases in K-12 schools, and consultation with local public health officials to determine the prevention strategies needed. School officials will communicate any changes in plans to staff members, students, and parents through the district's regular communication platforms. The plan will be regularly reviewed, but no less frequently than every six months, taking into consideration the timing of significant changes to CDC guidance on reopening schools. In determining whether revisions are necessary, and in making any revisions, the District will seek public input and take such input into account. If the CDC Guidance has been updated at the time the District revises this plan, the revised plan will address the District's policies for each of the CDC's safety recommendations.

1. In accordance with the Illinois State Superintendent of Schools July 9, 2021 declaration, Vienna High School will be open fully for in-person learning for all student attendance days for the 2021-22 school year. The following mitigation strategies will be considered based on the most up-to-date recommendations from the local health department and guidance from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Illinois Department of Public Health, and Illinois State Board of Education.
 - o Universal and correct wearing of masks

In accordance with Governor JB Pritzker's signed Executive Order No. 18 as of August 4, 2021, wearing a mask while in the school building, is requiring all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to wear a mask while present indoors in the school building. Individuals are required to consistently and correctly wear a mask while inside the school buildings. Mask use is recommended outdoors during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people who are not fully vaccinated, particularly in areas of substantial to high transmission. Teachers are encouraged to take classes outside on occasion to provide breaks from masks and to gain additional spacing.

Students are required to wear masks while on school buses as required by the CDC Order, unless exempt.

- o Physical distancing

To the extent possible within school and classroom structures so that it does not exclude students from full day in-person learning, school staff are to help students social distance of at least 3-feet physical distances between students within classrooms to the extent possible. Physical distancing in school buildings will be implemented to the extent possible.

School Staff will maximize physical distance as much as possible when moving through food service lines and while eating indoors. Aside from the cafeteria, additional spaces for mealtime seating may be utilized when available and feasible (e.g., weather permitting).

Physical distancing measures will be done in an equitable manner that does not perpetuate academic, racial, or other tracking (e.g., separating people into fully vaccinated and non-fully vaccinated cohorts).

- o Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

The District will encourage frequent and proper handwashing and will continue to teach respiratory etiquette (e.g., covering coughs and sneezes). Handwashing with soap and water is always the first recommended line of defense, but where this is not feasible or readily accessible, the use of hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol may be used.

- o Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

School custodial staff and transportation staff will continue to clean surfaces daily. When possible, staff will open doors and windows, use child-safe fans, and may have activities, classes, or lunches outdoors when circumstances allow. When it does not pose a safety risk, transportation staff will keep vehicle windows open at least a few inches to improve air circulation. If a school building has had a sick person or someone who tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 24 hours, the District will clean and disinfect the space.

- o Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with local health departments

Students and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as influenza (flu) or COVID-19, should stay home and contact their healthcare provider for testing and care. Students and staff who are not fully vaccinated should quarantine after a recent exposure to someone with COVID-19. Fully vaccinated people who were in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 but do NOT have COVID-19 symptoms do not need to quarantine or be tested.

Individuals in our school environments who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 are to immediately report to or be escorted to the school's health care professional's office to be either sent home or be wait in the school's supervised safe area while awaiting pickup/evaluation. Students and staff are required to wear masks while in the safe area.

Parents should ensure that ill students are picked up from school within 30 minutes of being notified. Ill students will not be allowed to utilize the school bus to return home.

Individuals who test positive for COVID-19, are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms will be excluded from school. Students and staff suspected of having COVID-19, whether they were tested or not, are to follow the CDC guidelines to determine when they can return to school. Please see the COVID-19 Return to School Flowchart attached as Exhibit A.

When the school becomes aware of a student or staff member testing positive for COVID-19, staff and families will be made aware and close contacts will be notified. To the extent allowable by privacy laws and other applicable laws, school health care professionals will continue to collaborate with County Health Department officials to confidentially provide information about people diagnosed with or exposed to COVID-19 or exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, including making notifications to staff and parents as soon as possible regarding those who were in close contact of someone in the school who tested positive for COVID-19.

High levels of infection within grade levels or a building may necessitate a return to remote learning. Any outbreaks will be reviewed with help from the County Health Department in consideration of Full Remote Learning.

Remote instruction, which may include a multitude of delivery methods, will only be made available for non-vaccinated or vaccine ineligible students only while they are under quarantine consistent with guidance or requirements from a local public health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health. Requests for remote learning due to a medical condition will be evaluated under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If the student has a qualifying medical condition, the student may be provided homebound instruction. See attached Remote Learning Plan for Quarantined Students.

Student absences related to a COVID-19 isolation or quarantine will be recorded as excused. To ensure continuity of services, school work missed during such an absence can be requested and made up in accordance with the school's policy (refer to student handbook); social, emotional, mental health, or other needs will be provided in accordance with a student's IEP or 504 Plan. Parents of students who have social, emotional, mental health, or other needs outside of an IEP or 504 Plan should contact their child's principal to discuss needs.

Staff absences related to a COVID-19 isolation or quarantine will be recorded in accordance with the district's sick leave policy and related collective bargaining agreements. To ensure continuity of services, staff members should contact their principals to discuss support for social, emotional, mental health, or other needs.

- o Diagnostic and screening testing- including encouraging families and staff to check for symptoms at home

Temperature check system is in place if needed. The district will not temperature check or screen students and staff until there is determined a need by the Superintendent based on current conditions. We will be asking all parents to continue helping eliminate the spread of any virus by keeping their students home when they are not feeling well.

- o Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff and students, if eligible

Respectful of peoples' varying levels of vaccine confidence, those who want to get vaccinated against COVID-19 can visit [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) to find out where they can get vaccinated in our community.

- o Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies.

Parents of students who need accommodations, modifications, or assistance related to COVID-19 safety protocols, disabilities, underlying medical conditions, weakened immune systems should contact their student's case manager or principal to discuss the need(s)

Staff members who need accommodations, modifications, or assistance related to COVID-19 safety protocols, disabilities, underlying medical conditions, weakened immune systems or a sincerely held religious belief or practice (covered by Title VII of the Civil rights Act of 1964) should contact their school's principal to discuss the need(s) and request accommodations. Staff members with weakened immune systems are advised to contact their healthcare professional about the need for continued personal protective measures after vaccination.

2. When returning to in-person instruction, continuity of services will be ensured, including but not limited to services to address the students' academic needs, and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health and other needs, which may include student health and food services.
3. District officials will continue to collaborate and consult with County Health Department officials throughout a pandemic on various logistics and decision-making including, but not limited to school health and safety protocols, screening testing, contact tracing, vaccine clinics and emergency school closings.
4. Through September 30, 2023, this plan will be reviewed no less frequently than every six months and revised as appropriate based on school, community, and county positivity numbers and after consultation with local public health officials and considering public input. Revisions will address the most recently updated safety recommendations by the CDC, provided in an alternative format accessible to parents who are individuals with a disability as defined by the ADA, and made publicly available on the district's website.