



Victor Valley Union High School District

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services (amended 9/25/23)

This document is subject to change in accordance with state guidelines.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The safety of employees and students is VVUHSD's first priority. Upon reopening, schools have been completely cleaned and disinfected, and VVUHSD will continue to adhere to all necessary safety precautions. In addition to the deep clean of the office and school before employees and students return, the cleaning steps outlined below will be implemented on a routine basis to disinfect:

- High traffic areas on all campuses will be thoroughly cleaned regularly.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces on campuses such as doorknobs throughout the school and workday.

GUIDELINES AND SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS:

SYMPTOM SCREENING

Symptom screening will no longer be conducted as students, staff, and visitors enter our District facilities. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) guidance no longer requires school districts to symptom-screen students, visitors or staff when entering District facilities. Here are links to the guidance: [CDC Guidance](#) [CDPH Guidance](#). However, we do expect all students, visitors, and staff to monitor for symptoms on a daily basis and to be responsible by staying home if ill.

EMPLOYEES WHO TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

After ending isolation (no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and symptoms are improving), confirmed cases may remove their mask sooner than Day 10 if they have two sequential negative tests at least one day apart. If antigen test results are positive, the person may still be infectious and should continue wearing a mask and wait at least one day before taking another test.

Employees may end isolation *AFTER* Day 5 IF:

- You have no symptoms, or your symptoms are mild and getting better; **AND**
- You have not had a fever for 24 hours without taking medicine that lowers fevers.

Even if an employee ends isolation earlier, the employee should continue to wear a mask through Day 10 unless, after ending isolation, you have two negative antigen tests at least a day apart without a positive test in between.

Important: There are some situations where you should isolate longer than 5 days:

- If you have a fever, do not end isolation until the fever has been gone for 24 hours (without using medicine that lowers fevers), OR
- If your other symptoms are not improving, you should keep isolating until you feel better or until after Day 10.

After you have ended isolation, if your symptoms come back or get worse, use an antigen test to test again. If you test positive, restart your isolation at Day 0.

The District is committed to securing additional safety equipment including hands free hand sanitizer stands, masks, home COVID-19 tests etc..

COVID VACCINATION FOR STUDENTS

Also, please be advised that students are not required to have the COVID-19 vaccination in order to attend school. There is no process in place to require students to reveal if they have been vaccinated or not. The decision for a student to receive the vaccine is solely a parental decision.

FACE COVERINGS & PPE

In accordance with the California Department of Public Health's (CDPH) Guidance for Face Coverings, face coverings are no longer required.

The district will provide clean, undamaged face coverings to all students and employees who request one. Workers or other persons handling or serving food must use gloves. Gloves are not recommended for use by students or staff, with the exception of those conducting cleaning, first aid, or food service.

HAND SANITIZING

In order to implement effective hand sanitizing practices, the District has:

- Made available soap and paper towels at every operational sink.
- Placed signage throughout the facilities reminding individuals to wash their hands regularly for at least 20 seconds.
- Provided hand sanitizers for each classroom and offices.

OTHER SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

- Common touch surfaces are cleaned regularly (counter tops, door handles, restrooms, student desks, student chairs, etc.)
- Signage will promote healthy hygiene practices and reminders to stay home when ill. Students will be encouraged to bring refillable water bottles to the water filling stations.
- The district has partnered with the San Bernardino Department of Public Health (SBDPH) to offer the COVID-19 vaccination for those who are eligible.
- The district will continue to work with SBDPH to offer the COVID-19 vaccination and other services to the community.

OUTBREAKS

A COVID-19 outbreak is determined by three or more confirmed positive cases at the same facility. School districts are encouraged to designate a COVID-19 Response Coordinator for the district. The Response Coordinator for VVUHSD is DeShawn Dickinson. The Response Coordinator will work in concert with the district Executive Cabinet regarding school site directives.

If an outbreak is suspected or confirmed, contact Kristin.Washington@dph.sbcounty.gov for further guidance.

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) will work with the COVID-19 Response Coordinator to support a site's outbreak response, including: providing guidance on identifying potential exposures and notifying those who may have been exposed; educating on prevention, transmission and disinfection; assisting with outbreak mitigation strategies; and assist with coordinating COVID-19 testing, if appropriate. The team can also facilitate additional contact tracing and provide guidance on next steps.

The primary contact at SBCDPH for assistance and to answer questions related to the Reopening of Schools is Heather Cockerill, Public Health Liaison at (909) 387-4578, hcockerill@dph.sbcounty.gov. If the Liaison is unavailable and urgent assistance is needed, contact (800) 722-4794 or (909) 677-7168 after hours. These numbers do not provide medical advice or assistance. Call 911 for emergency medical services.

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES, ENGLISH LEARNERS, AND OTHER STUDENTS WITH DIVERSE NEEDS

VVUHSD schools will work with students and families to ensure equity and access to quality instruction. Accommodations for students with disabilities, students with diverse learning needs, students who are medically vulnerable, and English Learners will be made as needed through SST, 504's and/or IEPs. Teams will determine the appropriate alternative instructional program which may include virtual learning.

TECHNOLOGY INFORMATION

A chromebook and wifi hotspot is available to all students who need it for home use. If a student needs a device, they will contact their site Principal.

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

District and school staff are committed to supporting students' social emotional wellness and offering resources to ensure students receive the support they need. Support may include social-emotional learning, building relationships, community-building activities, and increased access to mental health/wellness services through programs such as Care Solace or Mental Health Clinicians. Families and schools will need to work together to evaluate how students are feeling and assess their individual needs to provide the support students need during these challenges.

COVID-19 PROTOCOL & NOTIFICATION

Should a positive COVID-19 case be reported to the school site, the following protocols will be followed:

- In accordance with state and local laws and regulations, the school Health Technician or designee will make contact with the employee or student parent/guardian for any reported COVID case. Appropriate guidance will be provided, as well as supported leave options for staff.
- Potentially exposed employees will be contacted via email and given appropriate guidance in accordance with the law.
- Confidential record keeping is entered and provided to CDPH as needed in accordance with the law.
- Positive COVID-19 cases may lead to the temporary closure of a classroom, multiple classrooms, or even a school. This will be determined by District administration with direction from SBCDPH.

NOTIFICATIONS

- Employees who may have been exposed are contacted and given guidance on current recommendations for and options for leaves.
- AB685 Notification of Possible Exposure is sent out to potential exposed employees.
- District sites that are determined to be a risk for contact exposure will receive an extensive cleaning in coordination with the M&O Department.
- Depending on the location and exposure circumstances, and with guidance from the SBCDPH, there may be general notifications provided to the impacted departments or school sites. In all notifications, guidelines for privacy of staff under HIPAA will be followed.