



2021-2022 Vermillion School Return to School Plan

The Vermillion School District will continue to work in collaboration with local, regional, state, and national resources through the school year to ensure the health and safety of our staff and students. VSD recognizes the importance of in person learning, therefore will offer on campus classes for all students during the 2021-2022 School Year.

General Guidelines

- VSD will follow SD DOH recommendations for positive case contact tracing and quarantine protocols.
- VSD supports the CDC recommendation for COVID-19 vaccinations for children ages 12 and older.
- Children under the age of 12 are not eligible for COVID-19 vaccines at this time.
- Students and staff are expected to stay home while exhibiting symptoms of illness.
- VSD encourages physical distancing throughout the school day and school activities.
- Frequent handwashing through the day, before and after eating, and after using share equipment is recommended.
- Water bottles are highly recommended. Water bottle fill stations are available in every building.
- Visitor access during lunch will not be permitted at this time due to ongoing mitigation.
- Covid related absences will be addressed individually based on student's specific situations. Students will have access to classroom resources and/or learning management systems.
- The Vermillion School District Board will review this plan at each monthly board meeting or more often if necessary.

Communication

- Parents are expected to communicate positive cases and/or COVID exposure to building administrator.
- When a positive case is identified in a building, a notification will be sent via email to all families. Close contacts will be notified via phone.

Face Coverings

- Optional for all staff, students and visitors when building case load remains below 1.5% of building population.
- Required for all for a 2-week period if positive cases exceed 1.5% of total building population threshold. Return to optional once the 2-week period has expired and case load is below 1.5%.
- Face covering mandates will be building specific.
- If any VSD building reaches a face covering threshold, face coverings will become mandatory for all buses.
- Face mask thresholds will be established as a whole number and posted.
- Case load will be determined by district case load report. This represents the most accurate and up to date case report available.
- Any students entering the health office who are exhibiting symptoms of illness will be required to wear a face covering.

Remote Learning

Black Hills Online will be the remote option for students wishing to not attend VSD in person. <https://www.bholc.org/>. This will be a semester commitment with costs covered by the school district.

Testing Protocol

- Staff and students (with parental consent) may opt-in to weekly surveillance testing.
- Upon symptom onset, parents of students will be notified for immediate pick up and given the option to consent for onsite rapid tests.

Positive Case – Isolation

- Any student or staff who is positive for COVID will be excluded from school for a 10-day isolation period.

Close Contact - Quarantine

- Any individual identified as a close contact will be required to quarantine at home for 10 days.
- An individual may test out of quarantine after seven days with a negative test result.
- If an individual exposed as a close contact was previously vaccinated or wearing a mask at the time of exposure, they can still quarantine for 10 days or return to school masked for 10 days as long as they remain asymptomatic.

Activities

- Activities will return to pre-Covid-19 protocols. There are no restrictions for activity attendance.
- If 1.5% threshold is met in any building activities may be restricted.