

# VERONA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT



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Dr. Tremayne Clardy, Superintendent – Dr. Angela Lewis-Hawkins, Asst. Sup., Academic Services

Dr. Emmett Durtschi, Asst. Sup., Student Services – Chad Wiese, Asst. Sup., Business Services

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Dear VASD Families and Staff,

This communication is an update to our VASD COVID-19 health plan for grades K-12. A separate letter will be sent out specifically for Pre-K (4K) students due to different childcare guidelines and vaccine eligibility.

It has been our goal throughout the COVID-19 pandemic to promote a safe learning environment by adhering to the guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Public Health Madison, and Dane County (PHMDC), as well as our VASD medical advisors. We appreciate the support and patience of the VASD community as we have implemented and adjusted mitigation protocols to reflect changes in public health orders and guidance.

Over the past two years, in an effort to support COVID-19 mitigation, VASD has adjusted spacing for social distancing, improved ventilation systems, increased cleaning frequency, conducted contact tracing, hosted vaccination clinics, provided both rapid and PCR testing, and met regularly with our medical advisory panel for guidance, to name just a few of our strategies. These have been in service of keeping students and staff healthy and in school.

On February 14th, PHMDC announced that [Face Covering Emergency Order #7](#), which requires face coverings in public indoor spaces throughout Dane County, will expire effective 12:00am on March 1, 2022, and will not be extended. In their [press release](#), PHMDC cited declining numbers of positive COVID-19 cases, high vaccination rates, and lower levels of hospitalization as some of the reasons for this change. It should be noted that even though PHMDC will be lifting the requirement for face coverings, they continue to encourage their use, as does the CDC.

**Effective March 1, 2022, and in alignment with public health, VASD will adhere to the new guidance by making face coverings highly encouraged and recommended, rather than required, in all school buildings. Face coverings will remain required on all school buses due to [federal requirements](#). All guidance will apply to students as well as adults.**

In order to keep our schools safe and open, we encourage everyone to continue to adhere to our mitigation strategies of staying home when sick or quarantined, vaccination, use of face coverings (**when returning from quarantine**), social distancing, and handwashing.

The following guidelines are still in effect:

- Students and staff experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 must stay home until well
- Students and staff who receive a negative PCR test and experience symptom improvement may return immediately
- We will continue to follow CDC isolation and quarantine guidance, including mask usage after a positive test or COVID-19 exposure. [See Updated Guidance](#)
- Contact tracing and classroom notifications will no longer occur
- [COVID-19 dashboard](#) will continue to be updated as positive cases are reported

We encourage everyone who is in quarantine due to possible COVID-19 exposure and those who have tested positive to contact their [school nurse](#). If you have any questions about these guidelines or other COVID-19 related matters, please call a school nurse, and we would be happy to assist you.

It is our goal to offer a safe learning environment where we can keep students and staff in school with as few disruptions as possible. We ask everyone to continue to work together to help us reach this goal.

In service,

Dr. Tremayne Clardy, Superintendent VASD

Sarah Greenlaw, Barb Winger-Rourke, Melissa Winters  
Verona Area Education Association Co-Presidents

Jennifer Smith, Jennifer Kramer  
Verona Educational Support Personnel Association Co-Presidents