

May 4, 2021

Addendum to the VCS Health and Safety Plan 2020-2021

The following addendum is an update to the August 26, 2020 VCS Health and Safety Plan

VCS will no longer take temperatures at the doors each morning. This protocol issued in September 2020 was out of an abundance of caution and was not a mandate by the MCOPH or the PA DOE. We report zero cases of fever to this date.

We report zero cases of COVID-19 transmission in the school building.

The following update signifies recent changes to the Public Health recommendations issued from the PA Department of Health and the Montgomery County Office of Public Health.

The recommendations for fully vaccinated people will be updated and expanded based on the level of community spread of SARS-CoV-2, the proportion of the population that is fully vaccinated, and the rapidly evolving science on COVID-19 vaccines.

People Fully Vaccinated against Covid-19:

- Persons in non-healthcare congregate settings who are fully vaccinated and asymptomatic should be tested after an exposure to COVID-19, but quarantine is not necessary.
- Any person with new or unexplained symptoms of COVID-19 still need to isolate and be evaluated for SARS-CoV-2 testing.

Mask Guidance for Fully Vaccinated People:

- Visiting with other fully vaccinated people indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing.
- Participating in outdoor activities and recreation without a mask where the venue is not crowded.

For now, fully vaccinated people are advised to continue to:

- Take precautions like wearing a mask in indoor public settings.
- Wear masks when indoors with unvaccinated people who are at increased risk.
- Wear masks when indoors with unvaccinated people from multiple households. In indoor public spaces, the vaccination status of other people or whether they are at increased risk for severe COVID-19 is likely unknown.
- Not attend a gathering or visit public settings if they have tested positive for COVID-19 in the prior 10 days or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, regardless of vaccination status of the other people at the gathering.
- Avoid indoor large-sized, in-person gatherings.

The following could increase risk:

- Level of community transmission
- Settings with higher percentage of unvaccinated people
- Indoor settings with poor ventilation
- Length of the indoor visit
- Decreased ability to maintain physical distance
- Activities that involve behaviors such as singing, shouting, physical exertion or heavy breathing, inability to wear a mask, or inability to maintain physical distancing.

Vaccinated people visiting with unvaccinated people from multiple households at the same time:

If the unvaccinated people come from multiple households, there is a higher risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission among them, and the safest place to visit is outdoors. If the visit takes place indoors, **all people** involved should take precautions including wearing a well-fitted mask, staying at least 6 feet away from others, and visiting in a well-ventilated space.

The level of precautions taken should be determined by the characteristics of the *unvaccinated* people, who remain unprotected against COVID-19.

These announcements underscore the importance of being vaccinated to protect yourself. People with compromised immune systems should consult with their physician as to whether they may need to continue to wear a mask in some of these situations.

Anyone who lives, works, or goes to school in Montgomery County that would like to receive a COVID-19 vaccine from the county may go to <https://vaccine.montcopa.org/>

Sources:

The information compiled in this document is taken from:

- CDC
- National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD), Division of Viral Diseases
- PA Department of Health
- Montgomery County Office of Public Health

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05/04/2021



Valley Christian School Reopening and Health & Safety Plan 2020-2021

(Note: the following document is fluid and subject to change with new guidance and more current data.
(Updated August 26, 2020)

1. INTRODUCTION

THE MISSION OF VALLEY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL IN PARTNERSHIP WITH EACH PARENT IS TO DEVELOP CHRIST-CENTERED THINKERS, WITH A HEART FOR GOD, EQUIPPED TO EXCEL IN ALL ASPECTS OF LIFE.

VCS's mission is realized through the development of the whole child in the following areas: spiritual, social/emotional, physical, and cognitive. We believe VCS students experience this development best in our five, full-day learning community with face to face instruction given by our dedicated faculty and support staff. Our goal is to fulfill the mission with an in-person education while maintaining a safe and healthy environment in our facility. The following plan and guidelines support the safety and well-being of our VCS family while enjoying one another's company and completing our academic program.

Our faculty is receiving professional development in preparation for the possible return to distance learning. We are meeting and discussing how to prepare our students while they are in school for a smooth transition. Distance learning will have expectations if we are mandated to close school such as student attendance and participation at Google meetings for all classes and graded assessment. This will be detailed at a later date.

The following plan assumes that the Pennsylvania Commonwealth will be in the Green Phase on 9-9-20 and that VCS will reopen with healthy individuals being permitted on campus. This plan will expect students and employees to be informed of the most recent COVID-19 information listed here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html> and to follow proper protocol if the possibility of infection occurs. Sanitizing and disinfecting will occur with minimal disruption to the typical classroom routines and environment.

2. VCS COMPLIANCE FOR IN PERSON SCHOOL

VCS will follow applicable legal mandates, including those regarding public health. The school will follow appropriate health and education guidelines for schools issued by the CDC, the PA Dept of Health, the Montgomery County Health Department and the PA Dept of Education. We also realize that these departments may differ in their guidance.

VCS realizes it must be flexible and nimble with new information and must redesign approaches that are not working. The level of viral transmission in the school and/or community may give cause to revise mitigation strategies.

These policies are intended to be feasible, practical, and developmentally appropriate for VCS students and families.



VCS and the parents of children who are unable to attend school due to COVID-19 symptoms or a positive test will follow local health mandates requiring treatment and return to school.

The goal of VCS is to provide policies that support the overall health and well-being of our students, their parents, our employees, and our communities.

3. VCS PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

A partnership between VCS and its families implies that the two parties will use biblical principles to resolve differences.

A self-assessment and proper quarantining will help assure that our campus remains a healthy environment. We need to be aware and follow quarantine mandates related to travel as well.

Any student who exhibits a fever of 100.4 degrees or greater will be held in isolation in a secluded area and parents will be notified for pickup. An assessment form will be completed.

A return to school is permitted with compliance with CDC or local health department guidelines.

If a student/employee tests positive for COVID-19, VCS will consult the local health department for further guidance.

4. SYMPTOMS

A. Watch for symptoms

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear **2-14 days after exposure to the virus**. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

This list does not include all possible symptoms. CDC will continue to update this list as we learn more about COVID-19.

B. When to seek emergency medical attention



Look for **emergency warning signs*** for COVID-19. If someone is showing any of these signs, **seek emergency medical care immediately**:

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- Bluish lips or face

*This list is not all possible symptoms. Please call your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you.

C. Cover your coughs and sneezes

- **Cover your mouth and nose** with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- **Throw away used tissues** in a lined trash can.
- **Immediately wash your hands** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

D. Clean your hands often

- **Wash your hands** often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. This is especially important after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.
- **Use hand sanitizer** if soap and water are not available. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, covering all surfaces of your hands and rubbing them together until they feel dry.
- **Soap and water** are the best option, especially if hands are visibly dirty.
- **Avoid touching** your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

E. Identification of a case

The Pennsylvania Departments of Health (DOH) and Education (PDE) are providing recommendations to Pre-K to 12 schools for use in consultation with public health staff when making decisions related to school procedures following a case of COVID-19 in a school.

When a case of COVID-19 is identified in a school setting, public health staff from DOH or the County or Municipal Health Department (CMHD) will work with school administrators to provide guidance and advice related to cleaning and disinfecting, contact tracing and quarantine recommendations, and closing certain areas of the school or the entire school building if necessary. When an entire school is recommended to close, lengths of closure time will vary by level of community transmission and number of cases. This allows public health staff the necessary time to complete case investigations and contact tracing, and to provide schools with other appropriate public health advice like cleaning and disinfecting.

Recommendations for Pre-K to 12 Schools Following Identification of a Case(s) of COVID-19

It is important to note that a significant and/or widespread outbreak may require moving to a more remote-based instructional model more quickly. DOH will provide proactive consultative assistance to school entities should such an outbreak occur.

<u>Level of Community Transmission in the County</u>	Number of Cases of COVID-19 Within a 14-day period: 1 student or 1 staff	Number of Cases of COVID-19 Within a 14-day period: 2-4 students/staff in same school building OR <5% of total number of students/staff in a school building are cases OR Multiple school buildings with individual cases who are not household contacts	Number of Cases of COVID-19 Within a 14-day period: 5+ students/staff in same school building OR ≥5% of total number of students/ staff in a school building are cases OR Multiple school buildings with 2-4 cases who are not household contacts
Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School does not need to close Clean area(s) where case spent time Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close school(s) for 3-5 days* Clean area(s) where cases spent time Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close school(s) for 14 days* Clean entire school(s) Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine
Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School does not need to close Clean area(s) where case spent time Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close school(s) for 5-7 days* Clean area(s) where cases spent time Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close school(s) for 14 days* Clean entire school(s) Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine
Substantial	<u>DOH and PDE recommend a Full Remote Learning Model for all schools in counties with substantial level of community transmission</u>	<u>DOH and PDE recommend a Full Remote Learning Model for all schools in counties with substantial level of community transmission</u>	<u>DOH and PDE recommend a Full Remote Learning Model for all schools in counties with substantial level of community transmission</u>

*When an entire school is recommended to close, lengths of closure time will vary by level of community transmission and number of cases. This allows public health staff the necessary time to complete case investigations and contact tracing, and to provide schools with other appropriate public health advice like cleaning and disinfecting.

Public health staff will work with school administrators to determine whether entire classrooms or other cohort groups need to be quarantined. Based on these discussions, public health staff will direct close contacts

to **quarantine** for 14 days from the last exposure to the case; this includes household contacts (like siblings and parents/guardians/caregivers) who attend or work in other schools.

F. What are the recommendations for cleaning and disinfecting in a school setting?

Schools should close off all areas used by a case and not use those areas again until after **cleaning and disinfecting**. This may include a classroom, common areas used by the case(s) such as lunchrooms and restrooms, school transportation options like a bus or van, and in some cases, the entire school building. Students should not be present when disinfectants are being used and should not participate in disinfecting activities.

To protect the health of janitorial and cleaning staff, schools should wait at least 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting. If 24 hours is not feasible, wait as long as possible.

G. What should schools do when a student or staff present symptoms of COVID-19 but are not a confirmed case?

It is **not necessary** to notify DOH or CMHD staff of every symptomatic student or staff member, since many non-COVID-19 illnesses may present with similar symptoms. School administrators should contact DOH or CMHD for further guidance if a parent/guardian/caregiver notifies the school of potential exposure by a student, staff member, or school visitor. Refer to the DOH and PDE [COVID-19 Symptomatic K-12 Student or Staff Process Flow](#) (PDF) for steps schools should take when a student or staff present with symptoms of COVID-19 but are not a confirmed case

Student or staff present with symptoms*:

1. Symptoms are consistent with COVID-19
 - >Isolate from non-symptomatic students/staff-separate room or separate space
 - >Send home with referral to healthcare provider
 - >Evaluation by healthcare provider/investigation and notification by Public Health**
 - >Positive COVID-19 test (case) or person is a close contact to person with COVID-19-isolate case for 10 days/quarantine contact for 14 days
 - >PA Dept. of Health (DOH/County-Municipal Health Depts (CMHD) staff contacts individual or parent/guardian and school entity to provide guidance and recommendations, including isolation for the case and quarantine for close contacts.
 - >Return to school
2. Symptoms are not consistent with COVID-19
 - >Assess using normal school policies
 - >Return to school***

*Notifying DOH or CMHD staff is not necessary for symptomatic students, staff, and faculty as other non-COVID-19 illnesses may present with similar symptoms. VCS will contact DOH CMHD staff for further guidance if a parent notifies VCS of potential exposure by a student, staff member, or school visitor.

**For staff and students, who are not currently a close contact or quarantined,

presenting with symptoms that may be associated with COVID-19 may return to school when any one of the following applies:

~Symptomatic individual/child not tested: exclude for 10 days from symptom onset AND at least 24 hours after fever from symptom onset AND at least 24 hours after fever resolution (if present) AND improved respiratory symptoms; or resolution (if present) AND improved respiratory symptoms; or

Symptomatic individual/child clinically cleared by primary

~Symptomatic individual/child clinically cleared by primary medical doctor, certified school nurse or other health care provider: exclude until afebrile for 24 hours (if fever present) and symptoms improving; or and symptoms improving; or

~Symptomatic individual/child with test negative: exclude until afebrile for 24 hours (if fever present) AND improved until afebrile for 24 hours (if fever present) AND improved respiratory symptoms.

*** There is no need for a “negative test” for student or staff diagnosed with COVID-19 to return to school. Follow diagnosed with COVID-19 to return to school. Follow public health isolation guidance.

5. UNIVERSL FACE COVERINGS ORDER FAQ (PDE)

VCS will follow the guidance of the PDE at this time.

- A. Does the [Order of the Secretary of the PA Department of Health Requiring Universal Face Coverings](#) apply to children and adults while in schools?

Yes, this order applies to all students, staff and visitors age two and older while in school entities, including private and parochial school.

The Order was effective July 1, 2020 and will remain in effect until the Secretary of Health determines the public health risk is sufficiently reduced so that face coverings are no longer necessary as a widely utilized public health tool. For the safety of students, staff and families and to avoid community spread of COVID-19, students and staff are considered to be members of the public who are congregating in indoor locations. As such, they are required to adhere to this Order

Last week (written Aug. 17), the **American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)** released an update to their guidance strongly recommending children age two and older should wear face coverings **at all times** to help mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Prior guidance we released in collaboration with the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) stated students in schools could remove their face coverings as long as six feet of social distancing could be maintained. Given this recent change from the AAP, and consistent with the [Secretary of Health’s Face Covering Order issued on July 1, 2020](#), DOH is requiring **students wear face coverings at all times while in school**, even when six feet of social distancing can be achieved. There are limited exceptions.

- B. Why did the Secretary issue this Order?

The Secretary issued this Order to continue to protect all in the Commonwealth from the spread of COVID-19, mindful of the need to slow the increase in the number of cases as the Commonwealth reopens and in order to avoid the resurgence that is overwhelming the health care systems and public health systems in other states who have been less successful in reopening than the Commonwealth.

- C. Is this Order temporary?

This Order remains in effect until further notice.

D. What type of mask complies with this Order?

The Order requires individuals to wear a "face covering." "Face covering" means a covering of the nose and mouth that is secured to the head with ties, straps, or loops over the ears or is wrapped around the lower face. A "face covering" can be made of a variety of synthetic or natural fabrics, including cotton, silk, or linen, and, for the purposes of the order, can include a plastic face shield that covers the nose and mouth. "Face coverings" may be factory-made, sewn by hand, or improvised from household items, including but not limited to, scarves, bandanas, t-shirts, sweatshirts, or towels. While procedural and surgical masks intended for health care providers and first responders, such as N95 respirators, would meet these requirements, these specialized masks should be reserved for appropriate occupational and health care settings.

E. If I'm inside a public place and can maintain social distancing, do I need to wear a mask?

Yes, unless you fit one of the exceptions included in Section 3 of the Order.

F. Do I have to wear a mask both inside and outside?

The Secretary's Order requires individuals to wear a face covering, in both indoor public places and in the outdoors when they are not able to consistently maintain social distancing from individuals who are not members of their household, such as on a busy sidewalk, waiting in line to enter a place, or near others at any place people are congregating. Whether inside in a public place or outside, and when wearing a face covering or not, everyone should socially distance at least 6 feet apart from others who are not part of your household.

G. Do I need to wear a mask when around my family members?

A face covering is not necessary when inside the household with only individuals who are part of the same household as you, or when outdoors and able to consistently maintain social distancing from those who are not part of your household. If you and the individuals who live in your household are around others from outside of your household such as extended family members who do not live in the same household, a face covering is needed. If you and the members of your household are outdoors and 6 feet or further from other individuals such as extended family members, a face covering is not needed. Even if outdoors, exercise caution about situations that could result in closer contact when a face covering would be needed. You should also consider whether other individuals have underlying conditions that might make COVID-19 more serious to them than to others, and under those circumstances be sure to wear a face covering and social distance to protect them.

H. Is it acceptable to remove face coverings when high temperatures and humidity may create unsafe conditions, or simply if the weather is very warm?

Individuals must wear face coverings unless wearing a face covering would create an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task. In general, though, face coverings must be worn, even on warm days, if they do not pose a risk to an individual's health or safety. Mere discomfort is not considered a risk to an individual's health or safety.

Face shields are an acceptable alternative to face masks when high temperatures and humidity create unsafe conditions.

I. I have asthma or another medical condition. Do I have to wear a mask?

Individuals must wear a face covering unless the mask impedes their vision, they have a medical or mental health condition or disability that impedes their ability to wearing of a face covering, particularly one that creates respiratory problems for the individual, or if wearing a face covering would create an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task. A list of the exceptions can be found in [Section 3 of the Order](#). If an individual cannot wear a face covering due to a medical or mental health condition or disability, the individual should consider wearing a face shield.

Persons, including children, with other sensory sensitivities may have challenges wearing a cloth face covering. They should consult with their health care provider for advice about wearing cloth face coverings and may consider wearing a face shield.

An individual does not need to provide documentation that the individual fits within an exception to the Order.

J. When does my child have to wear a mask?

Children 2 years old and older are required to wear a face covering as described in the Order, unless they fit one of the exceptions included in Section 3 of the Order.

If a child is outdoors and able to consistently maintain a social distance of at least 6 feet from individuals who are not a part of their household, they do not need to wear a mask.

If a parent, guardian, or responsible person has been unable to place a face covering safely on the child's face, they should not do so.

If a child 2 years old or older is unable to remove a face covering without assistance, the child is not required to wear one.

K. Do staff and children in child care facilities need to wear face coverings?

All staff must wear face coverings during child care operations.

The Department recognizes that getting younger children to be comfortable wearing face coverings and to keep them on may create some difficulties. Under these circumstances, parents, guardians, licensed child care providers in community-based and school settings or responsible persons may consider prioritizing the wearing of face coverings to times when it is difficult for the child to maintain a social distance of at least 6 feet from others who are not a part of their household (e.g., during carpool drop off or pick up, or when standing in line at school). Ensuring proper face covering size and fit and providing children with frequent reminders and education on the importance and proper wearing of cloth face coverings may help address these issues.

Any child who cannot wear a face covering due to a medical condition, including those with respiratory issues that impede breathing, a mental health condition, or disability, and children who would be unable to remove a face covering without assistance, are not required to wear face coverings. Individuals who are communicating



or seeking to communicate with someone who is hearing impaired or who has another disability, where the ability to see the mouth is essential to communication, also are not required to wear a mask. Other face coverings, such as plastic face shields, may also accommodate such disabilities.

- L.** Does the Order of the Secretary of the PA Department of Health Requiring Universal Face Coverings apply to children and adults while in schools?

Yes, this order applies to all students, staff and visitors age two and older while in school entities, including public K-12 schools, brick and mortar and cyber charter schools, private and parochial schools, career and technical centers (CTCs), intermediate units (IUs); educational programming for students in non-educational placements such as residential settings (boarding schools), residential facilities, detention centers, and hospital settings; PA Pre-K Counts, Head Start Programs and Preschool Early Intervention programs; and Private Academic Nursery Schools and locally funded prekindergarten activities.

The Order was effective July 1, 2020 and will remain in effect until the Secretary of Health determines the public health risk is sufficiently reduced so that face coverings are no longer necessary as a widely utilized public health tool.

For the safety of students, staff and families and to avoid community spread of COVID-19, students and staff are considered to be members of the public who are congregating in indoor locations. As such, they are required to adhere to this Order.

The order is effective immediately and applies to all children aged two and older.

- M.** Under what circumstances are students permitted to remove their face coverings (e.g. masks and face shields)?

Schools may allow students to remove face coverings when students are:

- Eating or drinking when spaced at least 6 feet apart; or
- When wearing a face covering creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task; or
- At least 6 feet apart during “face-covering breaks” to last no longer than 10 minutes.

- N.** Do I need to wear a mask while walking my dog? Going for a run in the park?

If doing a solitary activity outside that is not likely to result in being within 6 feet of another person, you are not required to wear a face covering. Individuals should consider carrying a face covering in case they unexpectedly come in close contact with others. (I include this because it addresses “a solitary activity outside”. I.e., shooting hoops alone at the basketball not.)

- O.** Does the Order apply to athletes and sports activities?

Yes. Everyone must wear a face covering, such as a mask, unless they fall under an exception listed in Section 3 of the Order. Coaches, athletes and spectators must wear face coverings, unless they are outdoors and can consistently maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet. Athletes are not required to wear face coverings while



actively engaged in workouts and competition that prevent the wearing of face coverings, but must wear face coverings when on the sidelines, in the dugout, etc. and anytime 6 feet of social distancing is not possible.

P. Do I have to wear a mask if alone in my workplace or office?

Individuals engaged in work, whether at the workplace or performing work off-site, when interacting in-person with any member of the public, working in any space visited by members of the public, working in any space where food is prepared or packaged for sale or distribution to others, working in or walking through common areas, or in any room or enclosed area where other people, except for members of the person's own household, are present must wear a face covering when unable to physically distance. However, employees isolated in their personal office space, which is not shared with any other individual and at least 6 feet apart from another person do not need to wear a face covering. Additionally, a face covering is not required while eating or drinking. While eating or drinking, social distancing techniques and other public health best practices such as hand hygiene should be applied.

Q. What happens if I don't wear a mask?

The wearing of face coverings, such as a mask, ensures that we as a society can limit the spread of COVID-19 and successfully combat this pandemic; therefore, it is in **everyone's** best interest that all Pennsylvanians comply with this Order. As this is a legal order under the Disease Prevention and Control Law, law enforcement officers are authorized to issue warnings or citations for those not complying with the Order.

Your mask protects others around you and their masks protect you. By wearing a face covering such as a mask, you are protecting those closest to you.

R. Does a disposable face shield suffice in lieu of a mask?

Yes, a disposable face shield that covers the nose and mouth will suffice in lieu of a mask.

Note: The CDC does not recommend use of face shields for normal everyday activities or as a substitute for cloth face coverings because of a lack of evidence of their effectiveness to control the spread of the virus from the source for source control.

Date created: July 3, 2020; Date updated: August 17, 2020

6. PHYSICAL DISTANCING & MINIMIZING EXPOSURE

A. Drop Off/Dismissal/Pick Up/Office Policy

Entrance into the building by all individuals will be monitored and minimized. Drop off bins outside the front door will be utilized for mail, packages, etc.



PreK, K, and Grade 2 car drop-off students may enter through the red sanctuary doors. Other car students may enter through the main school doors. Bus students enter through the kitchen doors or the side yard doors.

The number of students enrolled and arriving at school for the Before School Program, and by car or bus will determine the best procedure for drop off/pick up. For example, if staggering times are necessary, VCS will inform parents and proceed accordingly.

Temperature checkers will be used upon entrance to the building as recommended by CDC guidelines.

Hand sanitizer will be provided upon entrance to the building and classrooms.

Grades K-8 parents and visitors will typically not be permitted to enter the building during drop-off. Of course, we will be sensitive to individual needs.

PreK parents may accompany their children to the classroom during the first week of school or longer as emotionally required.

Students arriving after 8:40 will enter through the main school doors and follow instructions given by the office personnel. Parents should wait until the student is cleared by the office to go to class.

Face covering will be used as outlined by the Commonwealth order above.

Physical distancing will be practiced under adult supervision when moving from place to place throughout campus to special class areas, the lunchroom, playground, sanctuary, and at dismissal time.

Parents will call the office to request that their child prepare for pick up during the school day. The child will be released when the parents notify the office of their arrival. Students will be escorted to meet the parent at the front door as much as possible.

Our plan for pick up will be to call busses over the intercom and students will be dismissed to the Boyer and released to their busses. Then pick up students will report to the Boyer and be released to parents. The After-School Program students will report to the Boyer. This plan will be dependent upon number of students enrolled and the number in each of the groups mentioned above.

B. Guests & Visitors

Essential guests & visitors, such as parents, will be required to wear masks and complete a health screening form.

C. Classroom & Facilities

Classrooms are equipped with hand sanitizer, wipes, and disinfectant spray.

Students sanitize their hands upon entering the room. Sanitizer is provided.

Students follow the teachers' guidance with sharing items.

Supply list items will be used by the child who purchased them.

Privacy offices or shields will be used at student desks or tables depending upon the activity at the time.

Face coverings are worn as required by the Commonwealth order stated above.

Developmentally appropriate small group activity or circle time (Morning Meeting Time) will be a part of our curriculum with mask wearing.

Supplies or equipment will be sanitized throughout the day by the students, teachers, support staff, janitorial personnel and by the cleaning company after school.

Sanitization of electronic devices will be done after each use.

Doors will be open as much as possible, fans will be on, windows may be open, and the AC will be on to allow ventilation and airflow.

Students are responsible to bring their own water bottles labeled with their name. Drinking from the water fountains will not be permitted. Water bottle filling will be available at the water filling stations.

Signage will be displayed throughout the building as reminders for:

- Physical distancing
- Proper and frequent hand washing
- How to stop the spread of germs

Restrooms will be equipped with hand soap and disinfectant. Students may wash their hands before using the toilet and after use to reduce spread of fomites.

Emergency drills will be modified to maintain physical distancing. Students will slowly dismiss to the outside of the building while maintaining social distancing and one class at a time in the hallway.

Physical distancing will be maintained in the sanctuary for chapel. Students will wear masks and singing may not transmit anymore particles than talking. (I sought counsel from a music teacher) Students may listen only to worship songs. We may not have any masked singing. Plan B is to consider chapel livestreamed into the classrooms.

Time will be allotted between classes to eliminate students passing each other in the hallway. One-way traffic may be implemented if necessary.

Middle school locker time will be eliminated or staggered to limit close personal contact. Students may be assigned bins in their homerooms to store personal items.



Middle school students will most likely remain in their homerooms and teachers will travel to them for core classes. (This is dependent upon enrollment numbers.) MS will be a cohort. 6-8 graders are mixed in various classes throughout the week.

7. VENTILATION

A. PDE Recommendations

When weather conditions allow, increase fresh outdoor air by opening windows and doors. Do not open windows and doors if doing so poses a safety or health risk (e.g., risk of falling, triggering asthma symptoms) to children using the facility.

Use fans to increase the effectiveness of open windows. Position fans securely and carefully in or near windows so as not to induce potentially contaminated airflow directly from one person over another (strategic window fan placement in exhaust mode can help draw fresh air into room via other open windows and doors without generating strong room air currents).

Ensure restroom exhaust fans are functional and operating at full capacity when the school is occupied

Use portable high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) fan/filtration systems to help enhance air cleaning

Consider using ultraviolet germicidal irradiation (UVGI) as a supplement to help inactivate SARS-CoV-2, especially if options for increasing room ventilation are limited.

B. VCS Compliance

VCS has UV lights throughout the building, new HVAC units in every area of the building with filters, air purifiers on each level, exhaust fans in various areas, portable disinfectant machines, and disinfectant sprayers.

8. INSTRUCTIONAL PROTOCOLS/CLOSURE/ABSENTEEISM

If a student or employee has a known exposure to COVID-19 or has COVID-19 symptoms, CDC guidelines may warrant local health authorities to recommend contact tracing and/or school exclusion or school closure. See above.

Home-based learning materials will be provided when a student is absent.

Teachers and students will be trained in Google Classroom, our Learning Management System (LMS). Assignments and communications will be posted there in classroom or course folders.

FACTS/Renweb, our Student Information System (SIS) will host the grade-book information and parent communication.

Teachers will provide live, pre-recorded or asynchronous teaching and support to students if we are mandated to close school. Face-to-face interactions between teachers and students via Google Meet



will help teachers to understand a student's thoughts. Discussion threads and breakout sessions can promote student connections.

Technology use will be blended into the classroom to equip students for distance learning. Chromebooks, laptops, and iPads will be used throughout the program.

Middle school will use assigned classroom Chromebooks.

9. RECESS & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

We will have group recess in the morning for the PK through third grades with designated areas for the classes. Grades 4-MS can choose their time to play.

Lunchtime recess will be in two groups, PK-grade three and grades four-MS.

Organized contact sports are not permitted.

Students are permitted to use the playground equipment being careful to physically distance.

Equipment will be sanitized or disinfected as needed by recess supervisors. Some equipment may be off limits.

Discretion will be used for group sizes and mixing of groups. (This depends on enrollment numbers.)

See Face Covering FAQ above for interpretation of mask wearing and social distancing and physical activity.

Indoor PE will be structured to provide physical activity in a safe manner yet allow the students to exercise. Class will be held outside as weather permits.

Indoor recess will maintain social distancing and mask wearing as much as possible. Students may engage in game playing, toy sharing, or other small group activities such as building block construction. There may be times when the students will return to their classrooms if space is not available.

Supervisors will educate the students and remind them to use caution while engaging in play.

10. LUNCHROOM

Two lunch periods will be utilized. Tables will be sanitized between shifts.

Lunch tables, white folding tables, and armless chairs will allow for social distancing. Enrollment numbers will dictate the exact layout of the room. Students are welcome to sit in a solitary spot near a wall or even facing away from the other students.

Students will have assigned seats that are social distanced in specific groups.



Students will use hand sanitizer before and after eating.

Meals will be served directly to the students. Beverages, silverware/napkins will be prepackaged.

Students in the After-School Program will provide their own beverages and snacks or eat prepackaged items provided by VCS.

Students should never touch another person's food or beverage or containers or share/trade items.

11. BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

These programs will be offered to parents who need extended care. Students will be from multiple grades. Social distancing and mask wearing will be requested. Students share games and toys in this program.

12. ORGANIZED ACTIVITIES

Organized activities such as Back to School events, field trips away from campus and interscholastic sports will be limited until such time as the local health authorities deem it safe. Inhouse events during the school day may be organized or outdoor activities on campus may be planned. After school activities will be considered once school is underway.

13. PERSONAL ITEMS

Personal items brought to school should be disinfected as much as possible.

Personal items should not be shared.

All personal items should be labeled with the student's name.

14. GENERAL CLEANING AND DISINFECTING

VCS personnel and the evening cleaning service will clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces (e.g., playground equipment, door handles, sink handles, drinking fountains) within the school at least daily or between use as much as possible. Use of shared objects (e.g., gym or physical education equipment, art supplies, toys, games) will be limited when possible, or cleaned between use.

15. TRANSPORTATION

School districts have protocol for seating, mask wearing, sanitizing, and ventilation.

Use of the VCS vehicles is suspended currently but will be considered on a case by case basis.

16. CONCLUSION



VCS recognizes that these policies and procedures are fluid due to directives from the state or local government or public health agencies or the PA Department of Education.

This document will be considered an addendum to our Family Handbook during the pandemic. VCS parents are asked to comply by the proposed directives. Enrollment at VCS implies compliance with school policies and procedures and guidelines as they are outlined in the family handbook.

17. RESOURCES

The content of this plan was provided by the following:

Center for Disease control (CDC)
PA Dept of Education (PDE)
PA Dept of Health (PDH)
Montgomery County Health Dept (MCHD)
The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)
VCS school board members: Aaron Pavkov, Rosie Bruce, and Dan Bramer (former member)
Dr. Kevin Scott, VCS parent
Deb Lentine, VCS parent and nurse practitioner
Elissa Marino, VCS faculty
Dan Marino, nurse specializing in ECMO machines
Sydney Warren, former VCS grandparent, retired Phila Elementary and Special Ed teacher
VCS parent surveys, conversations, emails and meetings
The Association of Christian Schools International
Susan Caler, VCS Head of School

Much of the language and guidance is directly from the CDC or PDE websites. Interpretation of such language is left to the reader. Communication with CDC or PDE

The original plan was approved by the VCS School Board of Directors, July 18, 2020, under the leadership of Noel Wolfe. This current plan is a revised edition.

At any point where Pennsylvania moves to the Yellow or Red Phase, VCS will comply with the guidance at each phase.

Please reach out for questions or concerns.

A VCS team member shared a blog post from a youth ministry organization at <https://www.rootedministry.com>. Will you please take a few minutes to read Anna Meade Harris' article titled, "In-Person Vs. Online: Starting Back to School in a Pandemic", July 20, 2020.

We pray for God's wisdom and protection in our homes and on our families and at our school campus. It takes each of us living in community and caring for others as much as we care for ourselves. Practicing social distancing, wearing masks and frequently washing our hands while we are away from school will be essential to keep our school a safe and healthy place in which to educate our children.



Respectfully submitted,

Susan Caler
Head of School