

VCSC's Path to Re-Entry 2021-2022



THE VCSC WILL UTILIZE A COLOR CODED RE-ENTRY PLAN AND THE FOCUS WILL BE SPENT ENSURING THAT WE ARE KEPT IN THE GREEN. GREEN WILL EMPHASIZE ALL SYSTEMS GO, YELLOW WILL EMPHASIZE SOME CAUTION AND RED WILL CLOSE SCHOOLS AND TAKE US TO ON-LINE OR VIRTUAL. IT IS EXPECTED THAT GREEN IS WHERE WE WILL START AND END THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR.

Considerations and Recommendations for VCSC's Schools



- The Indiana Department of Education, in partnership with the Governor's Office and the Indiana Department of Public Health, has developed guidance to support districts and communities in determining their plans and strategies for reopening schools. Using this guidance the VCSC's Path to Recovery for K-12 Schools provides a tiered approach with clear, actionable steps that are advisable before students and employees return to school buildings, along with guidance that is applicable throughout the 2021-2022 school year.
- This approach is built upon the guidance and recommendations of local and state health officials; it is strongly aligned to the reopening guidelines that have been provided by our state and federal leaders; and it is designed to help districts prioritize the health and safety of students and teachers as they open school buildings and deliver instruction for the 2021-2021 school year.
- The VCSC's Path to Re-Entry focuses heavily on the health, safety, and physical requirements necessary for reopening school buildings. The Indiana Department of Education will continue to provide guidance and recommendations to districts and schools on navigating the academic, social, and emotional effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on students and employees.
- REMINDER: The guidance and recommendations provided by the state are not mandated or required. Local school districts have the authority and flexibility to meet their individual needs and be responsive to their communities.
- It should also be noted that the VCSC for the purpose of the 2020-2021 school year remained in-person for instruction in large part from day one and continued on this path for the remainder of the school year. Therefore, the requirement of a re-entry plan is a bit misleading as it pertains to the VCSC.
- The VCSC will start in the "green" phase that is outlined throughout this document and will anticipate staying in this phase throughout the school year.
- The VCSC will update as needed our re-entry plan every six-months and will make available the plan on our website. We will also allow for public input at our Board meetings when it is time to re-update each and every six-months. The months in which we will allow for this input are below.
- This updated or revised re-entry plan also is approved by the VCSC Board of Trustees.
Subsequent dates for the re-entry to be updated include:
Initial Posting Deadline No later than June 24, 2021
Second Review and Posting Deadline December 24, 2021
Third Review and Posting Deadline June 24, 2022
Fourth Review and Posting Deadline December 24, 2022
Fifth Review and Posting Deadline June 24, 2023
- The VCSC plan is subject to change at any time depending upon guidance from local, state or federal direction/guidance.
- It is also noted that in order to receive ESSER III funds that the VCSC is required to have this re-entry plan. As it pertains to the projects which ESSER III funds will be spent all items will pertain to providing more opportunities where we can focus upon student and staff health and safety, in addition to those areas where the general public enters into our building to ensure their safety as well.

Addressing Community Spread in K-12 Schools

| Low/No Spread | Minimal/Moderate Spread | Substantial Spread |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Establish and maintain communication with local and state health officials. ● Participate in contact tracing efforts and specimen collection efforts as directed by local health officials (to the extent feasible). ● Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread. COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols. ● Establish a protocol for students/staff who feel ill/experience symptoms when they come to school (see When a Child, Staff Member, or Visitor Becomes Sick at School). ● Consider ways to accommodate needs of children, teachers/staff, and families at higher risk for severe illness (see Protecting Vulnerable Populations for considerations). ● We consider a low/no spread a situation in which cases are happening in our area, but we aren't seeing a daily increase. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Establish and maintain communication with local and state health officials. ● Participate in contact tracing efforts and specimen collection efforts as directed by local health officials (to the extent feasible). ● Implement social distancing measures (CDC recommends 3 feet if students are facing forward and 6 feet in all other areas of the school where students and staff are not vaccinated) (see Transitioning, Large Group Gatherings, and Teaching and Learning). ● Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread. COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols. ● Establish a protocol for students/staff who feel ill/experience symptoms when they come to school (see When a Child, Staff Member, or Visitor Becomes Sick at School). ● Isolate and deep clean impacted classrooms and spaces. ● Consider ways to accommodate needs of children, teachers/staff, and families at higher risk for severe illness (see Protecting Vulnerable Populations for considerations). ● REMINDER: Districts have the authority and flexibility to close school buildings and utilize distance/remote learning as needed. ● We consider a minimal/moderate spread a situation in which cases are happening in our area and we are seeing daily increases. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Establish and maintain communication with local and state health officials. ● Participate in contact tracing efforts and specimen collection efforts as directed by local health officials (to the extent feasible). ● Schools will be closed. ● Implement full distance/remote eLearning plans. ● Close off affected areas, and if possible, wait twenty-four hours before cleaning and disinfecting. ● Consider ways to accommodate needs of children, teachers/staff, and families at higher risk for severe illness. ● For additional guidance on addressing community spread, see the CDC's Considerations for Schools. ● We consider a substantial spread a situation in which cases are happening in our area, we are seeing daily increases, and we are seeing hospitalizations from these cases. |

Definitions

Face Coverings



Per the Governor's Executive Order expiring on June 30, 2021, VCSC students or staff will not be required to wear face coverings in the classrooms or buildings. It is recommended that those that have not been fully vaccinated and this includes both students and staff to consider being masked when indoors.

As it pertains to busing, at the present federal guidelines (CDC) require masking. The VCSC must adhere to this requirement. Should CDC remove this requirement, the VCSC will also not have this expectation.

Hand Sanitizer



Hand Sanitizer will be available to all VCSC staff and students in their respective classrooms and in highly trafficked areas.


Clean/Disinfect



The VCSC ensures the safe and correct application of disinfectants, while keeping these disinfectants readily available but out of reach of children.

VCSC's Path to Re-Entry

| Level of Community Spread (as determined by state and local health officials) | Low/No Spread | Minimal/Moderate Spread | Substantial Spread |
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| Instructional Model (as determined by local school district) | Traditional Day | Partial Population or Social Distance Schedules | Fully Implemented eLearning |
| Response (as determined by local school district in partnership with local departments of public health and community stakeholders) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Buildings Open <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Preventative practices and measures will still be in place. • Instead of a one-size-fits-all approach, the above Decision Tree provides the instructional models and responses the VCSC will use depending on current local and state precautions to ensure the continued success and safety of students and staff. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partial Population Schedule <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Students will be divided in green and orange groups. ○ Groups will switch on and off between in-class learning and eLearning. ○ Efforts will be made to keep families on the same schedules with the recognition that not all members of a family share the same last name. ○ Hand washing, cleaning, and social distancing will be encouraged numerous times throughout the school day. • Social Distance Schedule <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All students will be in the buildings. ○ Students will be spaced out throughout each building, maximizing space. ○ Students in class will have in class learning. ○ Students in an alternate location will have eLearning. ○ These groups will switch on and off like the Partial Population Plan. ○ Hand washing, cleaning, and social distancing will be encouraged numerous times throughout the school day. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted Closure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Isolate and disinfect affected areas. ○ Close at least one or more VCSC facilities. • Short Term Closure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Close for facility-wide deep cleaning. • Extended Closure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Close VCSC facilities for at least fourteen days. |

| Level of Community Spread (as determined by state and local officials) | Low/No Spread | Minimal/Moderate Spread | Substantial Spread |
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| Practicing Prevention  | District/School Considerations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teach and reinforce good hygiene measures such as washing hands, covering coughs, and using face coverings. • Provide hand soap and hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, paper towels, and no-touch trashcans in all bathrooms, classrooms, and frequently trafficked areas. • Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread. COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols. • Clean/disinfect frequently touched surfaces at least daily and shared objects after each use. • Allow students and staff to bring hand sanitizer and face masks/coverings to use from home. • Allow staff to wear face masks/coverings and other appropriate PPE as desired. • Take steps to ensure all water systems and features are safe. • Ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible, as long as doing so does not pose a safety or health risk to students or staff. • Conduct deep cleaning of schools prior to students/staff returning; schedule periodic cleanings during weekends or school holidays/breaks (to the extent practicable). | District/School Considerations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teach and reinforce good hygiene measures such as washing hands, covering coughs, and using face coverings. • Provide hand soap and hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, paper towels, and no-touch trash cans in all bathrooms, classrooms, and frequently trafficked areas. • Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread. COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols. • Clean/disinfect frequently touched surfaces at least daily and shared objects after each use Provide masks and other appropriate PPE to staff. • Allow students and staff to bring hand sanitizer and face masks/coverings to use from home. • Take steps to ensure all water systems and features are safe. • Encourage students and staff to bring water bottles from home. • Ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible, as long as this does not pose a safety or health risk to students or staff. • Conduct deep cleaning of schools prior to students/staff returning; schedule additional cleanings during weekends or school holidays/breaks. | District/School Considerations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use social media and other communications to inform parents, students, and staff about COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures, good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols • Encourage COVID-19 testing (How-To, When and Where) |

Transporting Students



The VCSC will implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as

- Providing hand sanitizer for students and bus drivers.
- Allowing bus drivers and students to wear face masks/coverings.
- Limiting field trips (to areas of limited/low transmission).
- Inspecting buses prior to students returning and as part of a regular rotation.
- Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces on the bus at least daily.
- Airing out buses when not in use.

- Providing hand sanitizer for students and bus drivers.
- Providing face masks for bus drivers.
- Students will be required to wear face masks/coverings.
- Screening students and bus drivers for symptoms of illness, and utilize spaced seating (to the extent practicable).
- Eliminating field trips.
- Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces on the buses at least daily.
- Establishing protocols for bus stops and loading/unloading students to minimize congregation of children from different households.
- Encouraging parent/guardian drop off/pickup, family carpooling, and walking.

- Close school buildings and discontinue bus transportation.
- Clean and disinfect all buses.

Entering School Buildings





School Calendars: Local school districts have authority over school calendars – meaning they have full authority to set start and end dates, holidays/breaks, and school hours, provided instructional requirements are met.


The VCSC will implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as:

- Providing hand sanitizer for students and staff.
- Limiting unnecessary congregations of students and staff.
- Posting signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread. COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols.
- Establishing a protocol for students/staff who feel ill/experience symptoms when they come to school (see When a Child, Staff Member, or Visitor Becomes Sick at School).
- Establishing a protocol for visitors: calling the front office before entering, screening visitors, requesting use of face coverings/masks, etc.

- Posting signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread. COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols.
- Establishing a protocol for students/staff who feel ill/experience symptoms when they come to school (see When a Child, Staff Member, or Visitor Becomes Sick at School).
- Designating entrance and exit flow paths.
- Screening students and staff (to the extent practicable):
 - Isolate and send home if internal temperature is over 99.4°F (38°C).
 - Consider safety and privacy concerns (confidentiality should be maintained).
- Establishing a protocol for visitors: calling the front office before entering, screening visitors, requesting use of face coverings/masks, etc. Restrict nonessential visitors and volunteers.
- Establishing a protocol for student pick up/drop off: staggered entry and release (by grade, class, or bus numbers), marked spacing for pickup.

- Allow only essential staff to carry out necessary functions in facilities.
- Maintain vigilance and purpose in determining staff roles, responsibilities, and reporting requirements, and refrain from blanket reporting requirements. Use virtual tools and platforms wherever possible to conduct essential business, and keep in-person reporting to an absolute minimum during school closures.

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| Serving Meals  | <p>The VCSC will implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing hand sanitizer for students and staff • Allowing students and staff to wear facemasks/coverings while in large groups. • Adding additional spacing will be added between students. • Conducting cleaning of cafeterias and high-touch surfaces throughout the school day. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serve meals in classrooms or safe cafeteria environments. • Limit choices and prepackage meals to allow easy disposal and minimal contact between students and staff. • Distribute food to students not in class after school the day before or week before on an alternating schedule. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize a weekly Food Distribution Plan. Families can pick up food, for the week, at one of our Food Distribution Sites. 5 breakfasts and 5 lunches will be provided per student upon request. Implement social distancing protocols for distribution. • Provide PPE for participating staff. |
| Transitioning  | <p>The VCSC will implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allowing students and staff to wear face masks/coverings while in large groups. • Conducting cleaning of hallways and high-touch surfaces throughout the school day. • Designating areas of the hallway (i.e. lanes) as flow paths to keep students separated and to minimize congregation of students. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit mixing between groups (to the extent practicable). • For class changes and other transitions throughout the school day: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide additional time for transitions. ○ Designate areas of the hallway (i.e. lanes) as flow paths to keep students separated and to minimize congregation of students. ○ Close common areas. ○ Have the same group of students stay with the same staff (all day for young children and as much as feasible for older children). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close all school buildings. |

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| <p>Conducting Large-group Gatherings</p>  | <p>The VCSC will implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing hand sanitizer for students and staff • Allowing students and staff to wear face masks/coverings. • Limiting unnecessary congregations of students and staff. • Follow Indiana High School Athletic Association guidelines for sporting events and practices. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abide by the maximum number of people allowed to congregate as defined by the Governor’s Office and/or Executive Order. • Discourage the congregation of students and staff in parking lots and common areas. • Stagger the schedule for large group gatherings (i.e. recess and school meals). • Utilize large spaces (i.e. gymnasiums, auditoriums, outside spaces weather permitting) for social distancing. • Follow Indiana High School Athletic Association guidelines for sporting events and practices. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close schools. • Please abide by the maximum number of people allowed to congregate as defined by the Governor’s Office and/or Executive Order. |
| <p>Supporting Teaching and Learning</p>  | <p>The VCSC will implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing hand sanitizer for students and staff. • Conducting cleaning of classrooms and high-touch surfaces each day. • Limiting physical interaction of partner or group work. • Surveying families’ interest in continuing online learning to reduce number of students requiring face-to-face, traditional instruction. • Providing additional instructional supports to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Students at risk of not graduating on time. ○ Students with disabilities based on progress monitoring.. ○ Students who struggled in the prior distance/remote learning environment (i.e. early grades, English Learners, etc.). ○ Other students identified as being behind academically by teachers and parents. ○ Identify essential concepts/skills at grade levels and provide access to enrichment (fine arts, music, world language, computer science, dual enrollment, physical education/play, STEM, etc.). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver a combination of traditional and eLearning instruction under Minimal/Moderate Spread by implementing the recommendations outlined in this guidance. • Use the master schedule to balance class numbers as much as possible and to remove unused desks and furniture in classrooms to maximize social distancing options. • Limit physical interaction of partner or group work. • Establish distance between the teacher’s desk/board and students’ desks. • Utilize large spaces (i.e. gymnasiums, auditoriums, outside spaces weather permitting) for social distancing. • Implement the Partial Population plan only if absolutely necessary and after factoring in additional logistical requirements/costs as well as day care requirements placed on working families and unnecessary burden on staff. • Consider allowing special education students to continue in person instruction as these students often rely on as these students often rely on this contact. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement eLearning Plan. • Distribute printed instructional packets/materials and district/school communications along with meals; designate and communicate collection/drop off points. • Utilize VCSC properties for WiFi hotspots. • Utilize the VCSC Helpline, social media feeds, and SchoolMessenger for continual communication with students, families, staff, and the community. |

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| Supporting Teaching and Learning (cont.) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Addressing learning loss by<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Helping students catch up/get ahead through the Google Classroom.○ Providing extended learning opportunities through before/after school programs, etc.• Preparing for potential future distance/remote learning by increasing current blended learning by<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Developing a digital learning plan.○ Integrating virtual learning practices by<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Digitizing lessons.■ Requiring a certain number of online assignments for each grading period.• Providing virtual learning-specific professional development for educators in<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Making the shift to online teaching and learning.○ Supporting students with disabilities online. | | |
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Protecting Vulnerable Populations



Vulnerable Populations -- Elderly individuals and/or individuals with serious underlying health conditions, including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and those whose immune systems are compromised such as by chemotherapy for cancer and other conditions requiring such therapy.

The VCSC will implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as:

- Establishing a point-of-contact with the local health department
- Identifying local COVID-19 testing sites.
- Providing hand sanitizer for students and staff.
- Providing PPE to vulnerable students and staff as appropriate.
- Allowing vulnerable students to complete their coursework virtually.
- Allowing vulnerable students and staff to wear PPE throughout the school day (to the extent practicable).
- Establishing a process for regular check-ins with vulnerable students and staff.
- Limiting large-group gatherings/interactions for vulnerable students and staff.

- Survey at-risk staff members to gauge their intentions in returning to work while maintaining confidentiality consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other applicable federal and state privacy laws.
- Survey families with vulnerable children to gauge their intentions in returning to a traditional school setting while maintaining confidentiality consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other applicable federal and state privacy laws.
- Provide remote/distance learning opportunities for vulnerable student populations in consultation with parents and public health officials.
- Consult with local board attorneys and district human resources officials to offer special accommodations (such as an alternative teaching assignment) for personnel who are members of vulnerable populations.
- Adhere to FERPA and HIPPA requirements.
- Adhere to state and federal employment law and extended leave allowances.

- Employ additional nurses, health care aides, and full-time substitute employees if available and possible.

When a Child, Staff Member, or Visitor Becomes Sick at School

District/School Considerations:

- work with school administrators, school nurses, and other healthcare providers to identify an isolation room or area to separate anyone who exhibits COVID-like symptoms.
- School nurses and other healthcare providers should use standard and transmission-based precautions when caring for sick people.
- Establish procedures for safely transporting anyone who is sick to his or her home or to a healthcare facility.
- Notify local and state health officials, staff, and families immediately of a possible case while maintaining confidentiality consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other applicable federal and state privacy laws.
- Close off areas used by a sick person, and do not use before cleaning and disinfection. Wait twenty-four hours before cleaning and disinfecting. If it is not possible to wait twenty-four hours, wait as long as possible. Ensure safe and correct application of disinfectants and keep disinfectant products away from children.
- Advise sick staff members and children not to return until they have met state and local criteria to discontinue home isolation
- This includes individuals who test positive must stay at home for 10 days following the onset of symptoms or a positive test result
- Inform those who have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19 to stay home and follow state and local guidance if symptoms develop. If a person does not have symptoms, follow appropriate state and local guidance for home quarantine. This guidance is as follows:
precautions), or day 15 (without testing or precautions). Vaccinated close contacts do not have to quarantine but should monitor for symptoms and isolate if symptoms develop
Unvaccinated individuals who are identified as a close contact must quarantine (asymptomatic close contacts may return on day 8 (with specific negative testing and precautions), day 11 (with precautions), or day 15 without testing or precautions).



Our primary focus is staff and student safety and the VCSC will adhere to the expectations of local, state and federal guidelines as we continue to come out of the global pandemic.

In large part, the VCSC provided full in-person instruction from the beginning of August through the end of May as related to the 2020-2021 school year and we are committed to being fully in-person for the entirety of the 2021-2022 school year.

We highly recommend both staff and students to be vaccinated. Nearly all of our staff is vaccinated and as opportunities arise for our students, we encourage of them to be vaccinated as well.

Being vaccinated is the number one way which will guarantee that a staff member or a student will not have to quarantine should they be exposed to a positive Covid-19 case as long as they are not showing any symptoms.

The VCSC will have opportunities available for those students which may not feel safe returning to a classroom, but with this it will need to be a collective decision from VCSC staff, local physicians and parents as to what is best for the student.

The VCSC is committed to providing the best education possible to all of our students and again student safety will be in play, but it is the intent of the VCSC to see the 2021-2022 school year return us to what we truly know as a normal school year.

Greg Parsley

Greg Parsley, Vincennes Community School Corporation Superintendent

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