



**Verndale Public School**  
**2021-2022 School Opening Plan**  
**August 2, 2021**

Schedules, programs and operations will return to near-normal in the fall of 2021 for Verndale School. This includes:

**Schedule**

School will be in-person, five days per week with regular start and end times for each building.

**Face Coverings**

Face coverings are optional and will not be required during the school day or during after school activities, including sports. However, students will need to have face coverings, as they are still required while on a school bus per federal guidelines regarding public transportation.

**Social Distancing**

There are no social distancing requirements during the school day or during after school activities, including sports.

**Vaccines**

Verndale School is not requiring Covid vaccinations for students, staff or visitors/volunteers.

**Meals**

Students will eat lunch and breakfast in the cafeteria.

**Specialist Classes (music, PE, art, etc.)**

These classes will be held in the specialist classrooms (music room, gym, art room, etc.).

**Cleaning**

Cleaning protocols will continue to support the mitigation of COVID 19.

**Healthy Facilities**

HVAC systems will be running at maximum capacity to ensure high air flow and air quality.

**Health Screening and Quarantine**

- Self-screening for symptoms of illness will be required. If you are ill, stay home and report your symptoms to the school nurse.
- Schools are mandated to report any positive Covid cases to MDH.

- Our practice regarding someone who is in close contact with a person who is COVID positive will be to notify staff and students (and parents/guardians) who are close contacts with a positive case and ask them to monitor their symptoms closely.

### **Handwashing**

Students will continue to be encouraged to wash their hands with soap and water during bathroom breaks and before meals and snacks.

### **Food Service**

The Verndale School Food Service Department has established material and food procedures that meet the requirements of Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Minnesota Department of Education (MDE).

### **Hydration**

Drinking fountains and water refill stations will be open for students.

### **Accommodations for Special Education**

Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies and procedures will be provided. Parents/guardians should contact his/her child's case manager to inquire about accommodations.

### **Partnership with Health Agencies**

Verndale School will collaborate on issues related to Covid with Wadena County Public Health, MDE and MDH. Local Covid infection rates will be monitored closely in collaboration with the agencies listed above.

### **Visitors/Volunteers**

Visitors and volunteers who are ill are not to enter the school building. Visitors and volunteers will follow standard protocols when checking in at the school office during the school day.

### **Subject to Change**

This plan and all areas of operation for Verndale School are subject to change at any time due to new state and/or federal mandates regarding Covid. And if necessary, the Verndale School Board will make changes to ensure the health and safety of students, staff and community members.

Please submit any feedback or concerns regarding the Verndale School Opening Plan to the school administration or a school board member by using the contact information listed below.

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