

# VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 47J

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March 9, 2022

Dear Vernonia School District Students, Staff, and Community:

The [Ready Schools Safe Learners \(RSSL\)](#) guidance related to Covid-19 protocols that districts, including ours, have been following was updated to include some significant changes that will take effect on March 12, 2022. This includes important and updated relevant information regarding mask requirements, quarantine protocols, isolation protocols and contact tracing.

Two of the changes to take effect will be in regards to quarantine and isolation protocols. Effective March 12, 2022:

- **Students and staff will no longer need to quarantine when exposed to COVID-19.**
- **Those that have tested positive for COVID-19 or exhibit two or more COVID-19 symptoms will be required to isolate at home for five days.** Once those 5 days have passed and you are fever-free for 24 hours and continue to have improving symptoms, you may return to school/work.
- **It is strongly recommended that if you test positive for COVID-19 that you wear a mask when you return to school on days 6-10.**

Our district continues to follow RSSL guidance, which means that *effective March 12th, face masks will be optional for students and staff in the Vernonia School District, including while on the bus.*

The ultimate decision on masking will rest with students and families to make the best decision for themselves. As a district, we support whatever decision you choose to make and will not tolerate any unkind or discriminatory behavior based on your choice to continue to wear a mask or not. Our staff will work to reinforce an environment of respect and inclusion for all members of our district, regardless of their decision.

Personal Choice is the new rule, and we ask that parents reinforce at home that wearing a mask is a personal choice and regardless of the reason, each student, staff member and parent will now get to make that decision for themselves.....and either choice is ok and acceptable.

As a district, we will continue to have safety measures in place to protect the health of the students and staff while in our buildings. The number one thing we can ALL do now is to stay home if we are sick or symptomatic, and we strongly encourage you to make that decision for your students if and when necessary.

In addition to these masking and quarantine changes, the VSD will also begin approving facility use requests again. If you have a need for meeting space for an event, Vernonia Schools facilities are now an option again. Facility use requests can be obtained from the school or District offices.

Thank you for your time and we look forward to continuing our most valuable work to meet each of your children's unique educational needs.

Aaron Miller  
Superintendent

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
1201 Texas Avenue  
Vernonia, OR 97064-1447  
Phone: (503) 429-5891  
Fax (503) 429-7742

VERNONIA HIGH SCHOOL  
1000 Missouri Avenue  
Vernonia, OR 97064-1445  
Phone: (503) 429-1333  
Fax (503) 429-4539

VERNONIA MIDDLE SCHOOL  
1000 Missouri Avenue  
Vernonia, OR 97064-1445  
Phone: (503) 429-1333  
Fax (503) 429-4539

VERNONIA ELEM. SCHOOL  
1000 Missouri Avenue  
Vernonia, OR 97064-1445  
Phone: (503) 429-1333  
Fax (503) 429-4539

MIST ELEM. SCHOOL  
69163 Hwy. 47  
Mist, OR 97016-7203  
Phone: (503) 755-2486  
Fax (503) 755-2213