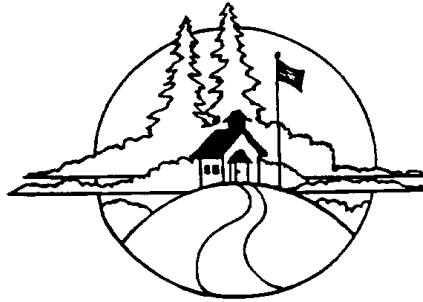


School-Level Communicable Disease Management Plan

Template For School Year 2023-2024



VSD 47J

School/District/Program Information

District or Education Service District Name and ID: Vernonia School District 47J, Institution ID: 1947

School or Program Name: Vernonia Elementary School, Vernonia Middle School, Vernonia High School, Mist Elementary School

Contact Name and Title: James Helmen, ED.S. – Superintendent Vernonia School District

Contact Phone: (503) 429-5891

Contact Email: jhelmen@vernoniak12.org

Table 1.



Policies, protocols, procedures and plans already in place

Provide hyperlinks to any documents or other resources currently utilized in your school/district. Consider adding a brief description about how each is used within your school.

Plan Types	Hyperlinks and Descriptions
School District Communicable Disease Management Plan OAR 581-022-2220	Vernonia School District's Communicable Disease Plan can be found HERE .
Exclusion Measures Exclusion of students and staff who are diagnosed with certain communicable diseases. OAR 333-019-0010	<p>In order to ensure that all schools follow appropriate Exclusion Measures and that students may return to class as soon as it is possible:</p> <p>The District will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Follow the OHA/ ODE Communicable Disease Guidance for Schools and work with the Northwest Regional Educational Service District (NWRES D) and Columbia County Public Health as needed to ensure proper exclusion measures and a safe return for individuals. 2. Post on the School Health Services webpage the OHA Symptom-Based Exclusion Chart for staff, family and student reference. 3. Contract with NWRES D to provide School Nurse support including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Assisting building administrators to identify students or staff who should be excluded due to communicable disease as indicated by the NWRES D CD team, OHA/ODE Communicable Disease Guidance for Schools. Exclusion procedures are outlined in our district level Communicable Disease Plan and the Communicable Disease Guidance for Schools Document. <p>Schools will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share with staff and students the OHA Symptom-Based Exclusion Chart (see also these versions which include translations and examples of when individuals should not be in school) on either/both the SHS webpage or their own school website. • Remind ill students and staff to stay home and to notify the school office.

Plan Types	Hyperlinks and Descriptions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enforce exclusion of staff and students who report excludable symptoms or communicable disease as indicated by the MESD CD team, MCHD and/or OHA/ODE Communicable Disease Guidance for Schools. <p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OHA/ODE Communicable Disease Guidance for Schools (05/2023) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section E: Symptom-Based Exclusion Guidelines Symptom-Based Exclusion Chart <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Translated charts and Parent Communicable Disease Letters.
<p>Isolation Space</p> <p>Requires a prevention-oriented health services program including a dedicated space to isolate sick students and to provide services for students with special health care needs.</p> <p>OAR 581-022-2220</p>	<p>Every school building, as required by state rules, has a dedicated Health Room to provide first aid and address minor illnesses and injuries, and a distinct Symptom/Isolation Space or plan to separate individuals who present with communicable diseases and/or excludable symptoms from the healthy school population.</p> <p>Schools will follow the steps for Building Administrators/Supervisors or their designees to determine to which location to send ill individuals include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals who are onsite and exhibit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excludable symptoms should be separated and put into a designated Symptom/Isolation Space to be fully screened. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MESD SHA/ Nurse will log all interactions with students within their electronic health record. Non-excludable symptoms (headache, sore throat, fatigue, muscle pain, congestion, runny nose) should be sent immediately to the designated Health Room to be fully screened. NWRES or designated school staff may offer diagnostic testing in the Isolation Space to Staff or Students (latter must have consent on file) who develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19 while at school. Student remains in isolation space until they are released to go home. The School Nurse, School Health Assistant, or designated office staff will call the student's home to provide exclusion guidelines. <p>If a school is not able to provide a designated symptom space, an office or other multi-purpose space may be designated as the symptom space with the following precautions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure Symptom Space has a door.

Plan Types	Hyperlinks and Descriptions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit access to the space to supervising staff and the symptomatic student(s) who are waiting to be picked up. • Advise against utilizing a hallway as a place where symptomatic students wait to be picked up. • Ensure appropriate cleaning and disinfection is done according to OSHA & CDC guidance prior to allowing healthy individuals into the space. • Increase ventilation by opening windows & placing a portable HEPA filter in the room when it is occupied by symptomatic individuals. • Have a spill kit readily available to immediately clean up bodily fluids, including vomit. <p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicable Disease Management Plan
Emergency Plan or Emergency Operations Plan OAR 581-022-2225	<p>The Vernonia School District has a comprehensive emergency plan with a schedule of drills and procedures to follow in the event of a variety of emergencies. For safety purposes, these are not published online. They are available throughout the building as described in policy EBC/EBCA.</p> <p>The School Emergency Plan establishes the School Emergency Team and is based on six emergency actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Secure The Perimeter Lockdown Team Response Evacuate Duck-Cover-Hold On Shelter-in-Place <p>Schools will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain a School Emergency Team with pre identified roles and responsibilities to assist in the school and district response to emergency situations. • Hold and practice emergency drills as required by State Law. • Identify local, state, federal, and private organizations and resources to activate and assist in response to disasters and emergencies on/or in the vicinity of District-owned and operated facilities.

Plan Types	Hyperlinks and Descriptions
Mental Health and Wellbeing Plans such as those prepared for Student Investment Account (optional)	All staff at Vernonia School District are encouraged to develop positive relationships with students which includes mentoring, coaching, and acting as a role model. Additionally, counseling staff are responsible for promoting and teaching wellness, Social Emotional Strategies, and character education. This is in part covered in policy IJ - Guidance Program. Teachers, throughout the day provide breaks to students where collaboration, Social Emotional Activities, Wellness activities, and character education are taught and reinforced. The daily schedule is created to provide students with breaks that can be thoughtfully used to promote all of the above.
Additional documents reference here:	



SECTION 1. Clarifying Roles and Responsibilities

Identifying roles central to communicable disease management. Clarifying responsibilities related to communicable disease response is a first step in keeping communities healthy and safe. In general, decisions of school health and safety reside with school and district officials. Together with local public health officials, school/district administrators should consult a variety of individuals when making decisions about health and safety in school.

Table 2. Roles and Responsibilities

School planning team members	Responsibilities:	Primary Contact (Name/Title):	Alternative Contact:
Building Lead / Administrator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educates staff, families, and students on policies regarding visitors and volunteers, ensuring health and safety are being maintained. In consultation with district leadership and LPHA staff, determines the level and type of response that is required/necessary. 	VES/Mist – Michelle Eagleson VMS/VHS- Nate Underwood	James Helmen Superintendent

School planning team members	Responsibilities:	Primary Contact (Name/Title):	Alternative Contact:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acts as key spokesperson to communicate health-related matters within school community members, health partners, and other local partners. 		
School Safety Team Representative (<i>or staff member knowledgeable about risks within a school, emergency response, or operations planning</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trains staff at the start of the academic year and at periodic intervals on communicable disease management procedures. Leads debrief of communicable disease event, informing continuous improvement of the planning, prevention, response, and recovery system. 	Leonard Hamilton VSD Nurse lharrison@vernoniak12.org 503) 429-1333	James Helmen Superintendent
Health Representative (<i>health aid, administrator, school/district nurse, ESD support</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports building lead/administrator in determining the level and type of response that is necessary. Reports to the LPHA any cluster of illness among staff or students. Provides requested logs and information to the LPHA in a timely manner. 	Leonard Hamilton, District Nurse	James Helmen Superintendent
School Support Staff as needed (<i>transportation, food service, maintenance/custodial</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advises on prevention/response procedures that are required to maintain student services. 	Julie James – Nutrition Mark Brown – Facilities Shelley Hennessy-Transportation	James Helmen Superintendent

School planning team members	Responsibilities:	Primary Contact (Name/Title):	Alternative Contact:
Communications Lead <i>(staff member responsible for ensuring internal/external messaging is completed)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensures accurate, clear, and timely information is communicated including those who may have been exposed, a description of how the school is responding, and action community members can take to protect their health. Shares communications in all languages relevant to school community. 	James Helmen Superintendent	Nate Underwood Vernonia 6-12 Principal
District Level Leadership Support <i>(staff member in which to consult surrounding a communicable disease event)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has responsibility over communicable disease response during periods of high transmission in community at large. May act as school level support to Building lead/Administrator activating a scaled response. Responds to media inquiries during the communicable disease event and ensures that those responsible for communication are designated speakers. 	James Helmen Superintendent	Nate Underwood Vernonia 6-12 Principal
Main Contact within Local Public Health Authority (LPHA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notifies Building Lead/Administrator of communicable disease outbreak and offers recommendations for appropriate response. Key spokesperson to communicate on health-related matters with community members, health facility staff, and other local community partners. 	James Helmen Superintendent	Leonard Hamilton, District Nurse
Others as identified by team			



Section 2. Equity and Continuity of Education

Preparing a plan that centers equity and supports mental health

Preparing a school to manage a communicable disease case or event requires an inclusive and holistic approach to protect access to in-person learning for all students. In this section suggested resources are offered to help prepare for communicable disease management while centering an equitable and caring response.

Centering Equity

Identify existing district or school plans and tools that can be utilized when centering equity in prevention, response, and recovery from incidents of outbreaks (e.g., district or school equity plans/stances/lenses/decision tools, Equity Committee or Team protocols, district or school systems for including student voice, existing agreements or community engagement or consultation models, Tribal Consultation¹, etc.)

- Equity and Diversity Council
- All Students Belong Policy (ACB)
- Superintendent Advisory Council



Suggested Resources:

1. [Equity Decision Tools](#) for School Leaders
2. [Community Engagement Toolkit](#)
3. [Tribal Consultation Toolkit](#)

¹ Tribal Consultation is a separate process from stakeholder engagement; consultation recognizes and affirms tribal rights of self-government and tribal sovereignty, and mandates state government to work with American Indian nations on a [government-to-government](#) basis.

Table 3.**Centering Educational Equity**

OHA/ODE Recommendation(s)	Response:
Describe how you will ensure continuity of instruction for students who may miss school due to illness.	The Vernonia School District works with each student/family with instructional options in the event of extended absences. This includes (but is not limited to) homework packets/support, Google Classroom, and Vernonia Family Academy for extenuating circumstances.
Describe how you identify those in your school setting that are disproportionately impacted by communicable disease and which students and families may need differentiated or additional support.	All staff at Vernonia School District are encouraged to develop positive relationships with students which includes mentoring, coaching, and acting as a role model. Additionally, counseling staff are responsible for promoting and teaching wellness, Social Emotional Strategies, and character education. This is in part covered in policy IJ - School Counseling Program. Teachers, throughout the day provide breaks to students where collaboration, Social Emotional Activities, Wellness activities, and character education are taught and reinforced. The daily schedule is created to provide students with breaks that can be thoughtfully used to promote all of the above.
Describe the process by which the school will implement a differentiated plan for those that are disproportionately impacted, historically underserved or at higher risk of negative impacts or complications related to communicable disease.	All students are provided a differentiated approach to learning and SEL. All staff at Vernonia School District are encouraged to develop positive relationships with students which includes mentoring, coaching, and acting as a role model as a means of identifying students in need. Additionally, counseling staff are responsible for promoting and teaching wellness, Social Emotional Strategies, and character education. This part covered in policy IJ - School Counseling Program. Teachers, throughout the day provide breaks to students where collaboration, Social Emotional Activities, Wellness activities, and character education are taught and reinforced. The daily schedule is created to provide students with breaks that can be thoughtfully used to promote all of the above.
Describe what support, training or logistics need to be in place to ensure that the named strategies are understood, implemented, and monitored successfully.	All staff have access to pre-service training which consists of professional development, policy/procedures, etc. Retraining and review will also occur during some Wednesday Professional Development days. School Principals and District RN monitor implementation.



Section 3. Communicable Disease Outbreak Prevention and Response:

Implementing mitigation activities, responding to periods of increased transmission, resuming baseline level mitigation, and debriefing actions to improve the process

Planning for and implementing proactive health and safety mitigation measures assists schools in reducing communicable disease transmission within the school environment for students, staff, and community members. Communicable disease, including norovirus, flu and COVID-19, will continue to circulate in our communities and our schools. Schools will utilize different mitigation measures based on local data, and observation of what is happening in their schools (e.g., transmission within their facilities and communities.) In the following section, teams will document their school's approach to the CDC, OHA and ODE advised health and safety measures at baseline, during increased transmission.



Suggested Resources:

1. Communicable Disease Guidance for Schools which includes information regarding:
2. Symptom-Based Exclusion Guidelines (pages 8-12)
3. Transmission Routes (pages 29-32)
4. Prevention or Mitigation Measures (pages 5-6)
5. School Attendance Restrictions and Reporting (page 33)
6. [CDC Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#)
7. [Supports for Continuity of Services](#)

Table 4.

Communicable Disease Mitigation Measures

OHA/ODE Recommendation(s) Layered Health and Safety Measures	Describe what mitigating measures the school will implement to reduce and respond to the spread of communicable disease and protect in-person instruction?
Immunizations	<i>CDC, OHA, and ODE recommend COVID-19 vaccination for all eligible individuals. Please include whether your school will offer COVID-19 vaccine clinics or notices about where to access vaccines in your community. Shots are required by law for children in attendance at public and private schools, preschools, child care facilities, and Head Start programs in Oregon. Nearly every place that provides care for a child outside the home requires shots or a medical or nonmedical exemption to stay enrolled.</i>
Face Coverings	For the 2023-2024 school year, face coverings are not required. A face covering may be offered to an individual who exhibits respiratory symptoms while at school when waiting for transport home.
Isolation	Vernonia School District students and staff who report or develop symptoms of a communicable illness while at school or in an educational program will be isolated in the nursing space at Vernonia School and students in Mist elementary school in the nursing space at that location. The district nurse office (which has adequate space and staff supervision), will be provided a face covering, and symptoms will be monitored by a the district nurse, other school-based health care provider or trained school/program staff until they are able to go home.
Symptom Screening	Any student or staff who develop illness symptoms while at school will be sent to the school office or nurse's office for further evaluation. School exclusion will be based on symptoms as defined in the Communicable Disease Guidelines for Schools.
COVID-19 Diagnostic Testing	The Vernonia School District may offer Covid-19 testing if the program is supported through the ODE.
Airflow and Circulation	Vernonia School District will operate ventilation systems properly and/or increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible by opening windows and doors, using fans, and through other methods. The Vernonia School District will consider running ventilation systems continuously and changing the filters more frequently where appropriate. All classrooms will utilize additional air purifiers in the classroom to provide additional air filtration. Ventilation systems will be checked regularly.
Cohorting	Schools, programs and facilities will strive to support cohorting in all daily activities and instruction when practical and when advised by our local public health authority during times of increased communicable disease transmission in our county.
Physical Distancing	Schools, programs and facilities will strive to support physical distancing in all daily activities and instruction when practical and when advised by our local public health authority during times of increased communicable disease transmission in our county.

OHA/ODE Recommendation(s) Layered Health and Safety Measures	Describe what mitigating measures the school will implement to reduce and respond to the spread of communicable disease and protect in-person instruction?
Hand Washing	Staff will instruct, model, and expect hand washing and respiratory etiquette from students and themselves before eating, when using the restroom, when coughing or sneezing, when entering from the outside and other times when hands are dirty. Respiratory etiquette means covering coughs and sneezes with an elbow or a tissue. Tissues should be disposed of in a garbage can, then hands washed or sanitized immediately.
Cleaning and Disinfection	All classrooms, shared spaces, and other areas throughout campus will be cleaned/sanitized daily. Sanitation station are provided to students and staff throughout the district.
Training and Public Health Education	Leonard Hamilton, RN (District Nurse) is the point of contact for public health and will be communicating with Columbia County Public Health about any reportable communicable disease and/or illness outbreaks. Leonard Hamilton, RN will be tracking illnesses of staff as appropriate. All public health recommendations will be followed. Staff training will be conducted throughout the year.
PRACTICING PLAN TO BE READY	

Training exercises are essential to preparedness ensuring individuals understand their role in a communicable disease event. Exercises can also help identify gaps in the planning, thereby building upon and strengthening the plan over time. Schools, districts, and ESDs should schedule to exercise this plan annually and when any revisions are made to update the plan. The plan, or component(s) of the plan, can be tested through conversations, practice exercises, or other activities.

School-Level Communicable Disease Management Plan found [HERE](#)

Date Last Updated: **8/25/23**

Date Last Practiced: **9/6/23**