



Verndale Public School
2021-2022 School Opening Plan
Revised
September 13, 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 encouraged but 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. Anyone choosing to wear a mask will be supported by the school.

Social Distancing

Adequate spacing will be provided where feasible. Rather than there will be no social distancing requirements.

Testing

Covid testing will be available to students and staff.

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

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.

Paul Brownlow, Superintendent	pbrownlow@verndaleschool.org	218-445-5184
Katie Bolland, Principal	kbolland@verndaleschool.org	
218-445-5184		
Bill Blaha, School Board	bblaha@verndaleschool.org	
Shyla Hess, School Board	shess@verndaleschool.org	
Chris Youngbauer, School Board	cyoungbauer@verndaleschool.org	
Scott Veronen, School Board	sveronen@verndaleschool.org	
Tahna Rurup, School Board	trurup@verndaleschool.org	
Jeremy Schwartz, School Board	jeschwartz@verndaleschool.org	



**Verndale School District
COVID-19 Response Plan
September 13, 2021**

The Verndale School Board has updated the Covid-19 safety response plan. This plan is to be dynamic and responsive to the current infection level in the school building. Each level builds upon safety measures of the previous level. The intent of this plan is to provide an in-person learning environment that ensures students and staff safety.

Level 1 - Revised plan approved at the September 13 School Board Meeting

Level 2 - 1 active case in a classroom/8-10 active cases in the elementary or high school

Level 3 - 2 active in a classroom/11-15 active cases in the elementary or high school

Level 4 - 3 active cases in a classroom or grade level/16-20 active cases in the elementary or high school

Level 5 - 4 or more active cases in classroom or grade level/21 or more active cases in the elementary or high school

Level 2

- Face coverings required indoors for students in that elementary classroom and recommended for students in the rest of the elementary school for a period of 14 days from the last day the active case was in the school; face coverings recommended with an active case in the high school
- Social distancing of **3 feet** required
- Self-screening for symptoms of illness will be required
- Quarantine - Close contacts with someone testing positive will be notified and asked to closely monitor symptoms and report to the school
- Testing - Rapid antigen and saliva tests will be available for those exhibiting symptoms
- Visitors and volunteers will be allowed - self-screening will be required

Level 3

- Schedule stays the same
- Face coverings are required indoors for students in that classroom or respective school (elementary or high school) for a period of 14 days from the last day the active case was in the school
- Social distancing of 3 feet required (Close contacts are identified as 6 feet or closer for 15 minutes or more in a day (cumulative) or household member
- Indoor recess will be held in cohorts
- Self-screening for symptoms of illness at home and staff will screen students for symptoms of illness
- Quarantine - Unvaccinated close contacts with someone testing positive - 7 day with test; 10 day without test; 14 days within the same household (those who have a lab-active positive COVID 19 test in the last 90 days are not required to quarantine)
- Visitors and volunteers will be allowed - self-screening will be required and masks will be required

Level 4

- Schedule stays the same/Various learning models may be considered
- Social distancing of **6 feet** required (Close contacts are identified as 6 feet or closer for 15 minutes or more in a day (cumulative) or household member
- Vaccines are not required but encouraged
- Meals will be served and consumed in the cafeteria and/or classrooms for the elementary school and cafeteria with appropriate social distancing for the high school
- Indoor recess will be held in cohorts
- Quarantine - Unvaccinated close contacts with someone testing positive - 7 day with test; 10 day without test; 14 days within the same household (those who have a lab-confirmed positive COVID 19 test in the last 90 days are not required to quarantine)
- Visitors and volunteers **will not** be allowed

Level 5

- Hybrid or distance learning may be provided as the learning environment
- Meals will be available for pick up at the school
- Specialist classes with the appropriate distancing will be held in specialist classrooms
- Indoor recess will be held in classrooms
- Collaborate regularly with health agencies for additional guidance and direction