

The Vanguard School Health & Safety Plan & Guidelines School year 2021-2022

Health and Safety Plan Summary: The Vanguard School

Initial Effective Date: August 14, 2020

Date of Last Revision: May 4, 2022

Date of Last Review: May 4, 2022

The Vanguard School Health and Safety Plan below was revised on May 4, 2022 in conjunction with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), The Chester County Health Department, and the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

The plan addresses how The Vanguard School will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff, and serve as local guidelines for all instructional and non-instructional school activities. Administration will monitor and adjust internal protocols based on updated guidance, as well as community metrics.

1. How the LEA will, to the greatest extent practicable, implement prevention and mitigation policies in line with the most up-to-date guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the reopening and operation of school facilities in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning;

One hundred (100) percent of our student population are students with disabilities. The Vanguard School Leadership team, including the Executive Director, reviews CDC guidelines and recommendations from the CDC website on a weekly basis. Any guideline and/or recommendations changes offered by CDC will trigger accompanying changes to our Health and Safety Plan & Guidelines consistent with those CDC recommendations and as relevant to our school and population served.

2. How the LEA will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address the students’ academic needs, and students’ and staff members’ social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services;

Based on current CDC guidelines, the Vanguard School plans to implement in-person school instruction for the 2021-22 year. As we have done in the past, The Vanguard school is currently prepared to implement remote learning to students should CDC determine that COVID-19 transmission rates rise to a level of unsafe in-person learning. All students will be provided with necessary hardware (laptops or tablets) and software (TEAMS, Zoom, Microsoft) required to access remote instruction. In addition, The Vanguard School plans to retain our school nurses in order to provide support to students and families if and when instruction must go to a remote platform. As an Approved Private School (APS), The Vanguard School works collaboratively with students' providing school districts to provide free meals when students are educated remotely. Staff members will continue to have access to our Employee Assistance Program (EAP). Students will have access to school-based mental health professionals (i.e., school psychologists, school counselors, behavior analysts, behavior support specialists) regardless of platform used for educational purposes (i.e., in-person or remote).

3. How the LEA will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policy on each of the following safety recommendations established by the CDC:

TOPIC	Action Steps/Recommendations
Cleaning/Sanitizing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Porters will be on campus fulltime and will focus on cleaning and sanitizing all school buildings throughout the school day. High touch areas will be prioritized. • Custodial staff will deep clean and disinfect every school night; after school hours. • Classroom staff will sanitize and wipe down all surfaces and curricular materials after use in classroom, playground, Take-5, etc. • Sharing of materials will be limited.
Ventilation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of high-efficiency filters that effectively remove virus-containing particles from the air. We routinely change our filters on the HVAC systems and utilize MERV13 filters. • Open windows if and when necessary.
Physical Distancing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical distancing of 3-6 feet will be implemented to the extent possible. • Cohorts of students/ classrooms will be utilized to the extent possible. • Transition protocols to maintain distance while in hallways and common areas will be in effect.
Symptom Surveillance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued use of Daily Symptom Checker at home for students.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff will submit a signed VFES COVID-19 Symptom Monitoring Acknowledgement form before the start of the school year. • Staff and students should stay home if they are feeling sick. • Refer to the staff and student decision tree.
COVID-19 Screening & Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VFES will continue to monitor community transmission, vaccination coverage , and occurrence of outbreaks to guide policy and procedure. • Any student or staff the develops symptoms while on campus will have the opportunity to take a Binax “rapid test” while supplies remain.
Universal and Correct Wearing of Masks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Vanguard School will implement a “indoor universal masking policy” for all staff, students, and visitors regardless of vaccination status. • Masks are required on school buses and Vanguard School vans. • People who are not fully vaccinated should wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or activities that require sustained close contact. • A mask is defined as a covering of the nose and mouth that is secured with straps that loop over the ears or tie around the back of the head. • KN95 masks and surgical masks are the only two types of masks that are permissible for staff • KN95 masks and surgical masks are strongly encourage for all students however factory-made, sewn by hand or machine, cloth masks are acceptable at this time. • Mask exceptions may occur as per a student’s IEP Team. • Students may remove masks when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Eating or drinking if seated six feet away from others. ○ Engaged in any activity for which maintaining at least 6 feet apart is assured (e.g. face mask breaks, recess,outdoor P.E., etc.). ○ When masks are removed, they must be placed below the chin, in a pocket or on the lap. Masks should not beplaced on tabletops or other communal surfaces. ○ Students will be instructed when they may take “mask breaks” and remove their masks, such as during mealtimes, and when outdoors and more than six feet apart from other people.
Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice handwashing and respiratory etiquette to keep from getting and spreading infectious illnesses including COVID-19 • Encourage handwashing strategies which include washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly dirty, use an alcohol-based

	<p>hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Handwashing strategies should be encouraged after going to the bathroom, before eating, after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing, and after touching your face.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage respiratory etiquette which includes covering your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing, use tissues and throw them away, and wash your hands or use hand sanitizer every time you touch your mouth or nose.
Vaccination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vanguard recognizes that achieving high levels of COVID-19 vaccination among eligible students and staff is one of the most critical strategies to help schools safely resume full operations • All eligible students and staff are encouraged to take advantage of the COVID-19 vaccine.
Close Contacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a student is a close contact to a positive case at school communication via email will be sent to the student’s family. • Any symptomatic close contact is expected to remain at home until symptoms resolve. • Asymptomatic close contacts should report to school.
Visitors on Campus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All IEP meetings will be held virtually. • External agency employees will be permitted on campus and are required to follow all safety guidelines. • University students will be permitted on a case by case basis with approval from a director. • Parent observations are permitted following VFES policy guidelines and safety guidelines. • External programming will be permitted on a case by case basis with approval from a director.
Lunches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families will pre-order lunches one week in advance through our on-line ordering system found on The Vanguard School website in the quick links section. • Lunch menus are available in the quick links section. • Food orders will be sorted and individually packaged each morning. • Food Orders will be delivered to the classroom. • Lunch will be held in the classroom or an outdoor, reserved common area. • Staff will clean the area after lunch is over. • The decision to resume use of the cafeteria for lunch period will depend on positivity rates and will be evaluated weekly.
Nursing Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reduce the number of students in the nurse’s office(s), a portable, small gate may be used in the doorway to restrict traffic flow into the office. • To maintain social distancing protocols during medication administration, the school nurse will telephone classroom teachers to prompt them to send students to the nurse’s station. Floor markers placed outside the nurse’s office will be used to prompt students where to temporarily

	<p>wait for their medications. Class lists are available in Achieve. This process may change over time at the nurse's discretion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If only one nurse is available on campus, that nurse will work out of the Activities Center nurse's office. • If only one nurse is on campus, educators are reminded to seek nursing services judiciously when needed. • If only one nurse is on campus, educators are encouraged to bring students to the nurse's station for student bodychecks following major behavioral incidents when needed, if and only if students are compliant and are safe to do so. • Educators are encouraged to routinely review proper handwashing and mask wearing PowerPoints and other visuals, developed and provided by the nursing department.
Isolation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any individual who tests positive for COVID-19 (outside of school) will be required to isolate and contact the VFES COVID-19 Case Managers. • Contact COVID-19 Case Managers at: casemanagers@vfes.net • Any individual who tests positive for COVID-19 while on school property will be immediately directed to the isolation area until that person is able to be safely transported home. • The isolation area is currently identified as Room C, Activities Center. • Students using the isolation area will be supervised at all times. • Cots and/or chairs will be separated to the maximum degree possible. • The Isolation room doors will remain shut at all times. • If an entire classroom needs to be isolated, the class should remain in their regular classroom as a temporary isolation area. • Thoroughly clean and disinfect the isolation area after each use, including cots and chairs.



Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Valley Forge Educational Services** reviewed and approved the initial Health and Safety Plan on **May 4, 2022**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

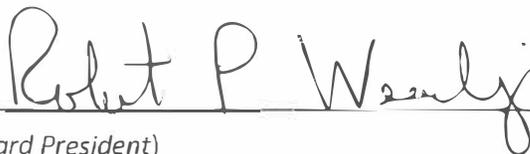
 8 Yes

 0 No

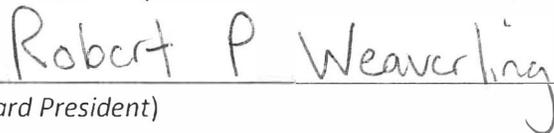
The revised Health and Safety Plan was reviewed and affirmed by the Board Chair

on: **May 4, 2022**

By:



(Signature* of Board President)



(Print Name of Board President)

*Electronic signatures on this document are acceptable using one of the two methods detailed below.

Option A: The use of actual signatures is encouraged whenever possible. This method requires that the document be printed, signed, scanned, and then submitted.

Option B: If printing and scanning are not possible, add an electronic signature using the resident Microsoft Office product signature option, which is free to everyone, no installation or purchase needed.