

August 26, 2020

OV HEALTH OFFICE - 247-6833 x2647

FAX: 247-4627

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We hope that you are all well and have had some time to enjoy the summer. We know there have been many challenges since last March. We have done our best to keep up with the many changing health department guidelines as we move into this new school year. As the RNESU nurses, we are committed to following the VT Department of Health, [A Strong and Healthy Start](#) document. This guidance is subject to change.

- All staff and students are required to wear facial coverings while on busses and in the building. They must also wear them when outside of the building if adequate physical distancing cannot be maintained.
- Teachers and staff should maintain a distance of 6 feet from students as much as possible. However, brief periods of closer contact, such as when a student may need one-on-one guidance, clarification, or assistance are expected and permitted. In these cases, staff should stand/kneel/sit side-by-side students (rather than face-to-face) for brief amounts of time (less than 15 minutes).
- Hand sanitizing stations will be set up at the entrance of the facility or immediately upon entry into the facility.
- There will be staggered arrival and drop off times.
- Students will go directly to their assigned classroom once they have completed the required screening.
- Parents/caregivers will not be allowed to enter the building with the student.
- Individuals who are self-quarantining should not do drop-off or pick-up.
- At a minimum, common spaces and frequently touched surfaces and doors will be cleaned and disinfected at the beginning, middle and end of each day.

We have included several documents to explain the expectations for this school year. These documents will be updated as we receive new guidelines from the Health Department. Included are:

- Health Screening Guidelines (back of this letter)
- Health Screening Form
- OV Drop-off Information/Exclusion from School/Student Mask Information (two sided)
- Supportive materials to assist you (two sided)

Please contact your school nurse with any questions.

Sincerely,

Tina Spotts, BSN,RN

Email: tspotts@rnesu.org

Health Screening Guidelines

All students/their families will conduct daily monitoring for COVID-19 exposure and symptoms. A parent/caregiver will daily complete the form on the other side of this paper regarding exposure and symptoms. Upon arrival at school students will have their temperature checked. (Exposure is defined as: close contact with a person who has COVID-19 within the last 14 days. Based on our current knowledge, a close contact is someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 48 hours before illness onset until the time the patient is isolated.)

If students do not arrive at school with a signed exposure/symptom sheet by parent/caregiver, the school will complete the assessment and check their temperature. **Any student who has COVID-19 exposure, or signs/symptoms of COVID-19 must not come to school or will be returned to their parent/caregiver as soon as possible.** Any student whose temperature is less than 97.0 or between 100.0 -100.3 will be further assessed by the nurse before admittance for the school day.

It is very important that the school has contact information
for a parent or delegated person that can be readily
available to pick up students.

Families should make extra effort to avoid large gatherings and other situations that put you at greater risk for virus exposure in the weeks leading up to school opening
Students will be excluded from in-person school activities, if they:

- Show symptoms of COVID-19
- Have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days
- Have a fever (temperature greater than 100.4)

Any student with the above symptoms will be separated from other students and sent home as soon as possible. Students will be excluded from school until they are no longer considered contagious. The student's healthcare provider should be consulted to determine what medical course to take. Students with fever greater than 100.4°F and no specific diagnosis should remain at home until they have had no fever for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications (e.g., Advil, Tylenol).

If COVID-19 is confirmed in a student or staff member, schools will work with the Department of Health to determine next steps

Children with documented allergies or well-controlled asthma do NOT require a medical clearance note from a healthcare provider to enter school. However, a child with a new diagnosis of asthma during the school year does require written confirmation from the student's healthcare provider.