

**VANDALIA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #203
COVID-19 LAYERED MITIGATION MEASURES
2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR**

Per the CDC July 9, 2021 Guidance, "School administrators should consider multiple factors when they make decisions about implementing layered prevention strategies against COVID-19. Since schools typically serve their surrounding communities, decisions should be based on the school population, families and students served, as well as their communities."

The Vandalia Community Unit School District #203 has implemented a layered COVID mitigation strategy beginning in August of 2020 and will continue during the 21-22 school year. Layered mitigation strategies are as follows:

1. The vaccine is widely available in Vandalia for ages 12 and above and the single most important prevention strategy.
2. 75-80% of staff vaccinated, 25% recovered from COVID-19 during the 20-21 school year.
3. Staff and students must stay home when they are sick with COVID like symptoms or illness.
4. COVID positive cases must quarantine per FCHD/IDPH/CDC.
5. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette.
6. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities.
7. Updated HVAC and bipolar ionization units installed in cafeterias and gyms.
8. Diagnostic testing for staff and students with parent consent.
9. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies.
10. Physical distancing of 3 to 6ft when possible.
11. Correct wearing of masks.

Consistent with the CDC July 9, 2021 Guidance, the superintendent is directed by the Vandalia CUSD #203 Board of Education to implement a layered mitigation system based on levels of risks of COVID-19 spread inside our buildings as the primary indicator with community transmission as a consideration.

Level 1 Minimal Transmission

Level 1 status is defined as low transmission rates, low positivity rates, and limited risk of COVID-19.

- Layered mitigation strategies 1-9 implemented with fidelity.
- Distancing will consist of educational best practices.
- Masks optional with the recommendation for all per CDC.
- Metric Threshold: Less than 5% internal positivity rate. Possible consideration: Less than 8% positivity rate within the community for two consecutive weeks.

Level 2 Moderate Transmission

Level 2 status defined as moderate transmission and positivity rates are increasing internally or in the community.

- Layered mitigation strategies 1-9 implemented with fidelity.
- Distancing will consist of increased physical distancing at lunch and the hallways.
- Mandated and/or targeted use of situational masking:
 - Students in grades PreK-6 who are not eligible for the vaccine.
 - Specifically impacted grade levels or buildings within the district.
 - Recommendation for all per CDC.
- Metrics Threshold: 5% internal positivity rate or a confirmed outbreak of 5 or more cases linked. Possible consideration: 8% positivity rate within the community for two consecutive weeks.

Level 3 Substantial Transmission

Level 3 status is defined as an increase in significant positive cases internally or in the community.

- Layered mitigation strategies 1-9 implemented with fidelity.
- Increased physical distancing in all spaces to the greatest extent possible.
- Masks mandated for all.
- Metrics Threshold: 8% internal positivity rate. Possible consideration: 15% positivity rate within the community for two consecutive weeks.