Valentine Community Schools

The purpose of this blueprint is to provide a framework for how Valentine Community Schools will respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the educational program during the 2020-2021 school year. This plan has been updated to include the 21-22 School year and beyond, as well, and will be continually evaluated and updated as needed. The framework is structured using tenets and tiers in order to allow the district to be nimble and responsive to changing public health circumstances. The presence of a formal plan will also support the district in articulating its plan for next fall in a clear, comprehensive, and transparent manner.

VCS Mission Statement:

Valentine Community Schools - Every child will learn skills to adapt, thrive, and live successfully.

Scenario Description Rationale: Reviewed and Updated August 9, 2023

Scenario	Description	Rationale
A	School is in session on campus for students and staff beginning in August as planned.	• In this scenario, the school has a plan to meet guidelines provided for the reopening of schools and local public health conditions warrant a return to school on campus with appropriate safety precautions being made.
В	Altered School Calendar	• In this scenario, the beginning/ending of school and/or vacation and/or PD (In-Service) days could be altered to meet instructional requirements as indicated in Rule 10.
C	School is in session (scenario A or B) with occasional short-term closures (2-5 days).	• In this scenario, the district would anticipate providing educational continuity for students with occasional short-term closures that would be needed when a student or staff member who has been on campus tests positive for COVID-19. The purpose of the short-term closure (2-5 days) would be to contact trace, deep clean, and ensure the necessary exclusion of students and staff from campus for up to 14 days or as directed by public health officials.
D	Hybrid of on campus (in-person) and virtual (remote learning) instruction for social distancing purposes	This plan would be used in the event that we have directed health measures that require social distancing in classrooms or limiting the number of students in a classroom. Examples could include • Alternating Days or Half Days • Students remain in the classroom with teachers rotating to students. • Assessments on campus during remote learning • Serving Special Education and other select groups on campus • Students remain in the classroom with teachers rotating to students. • Students remain in the classroom to complete remote learning with support of a single teacher (classroom, QT, BT, etc.)
E	Remote Learning	Necessary in the event of school building closure.

Operational Zones

Tiered Responses The following factors will be considered for movement from one tier to the next			
GreenDHM Phase IVLow Risk	YellowDHM Phase IIIModerate Risk	OrangeDHM Phase IIElevated Risk	RedDHM Phase IPandemic
 No confirmed cases within the buildings No Directed Health Measures that limit the school building capacity 	 Confirmed case(s) in building Consultation with Health Department Directed Health Measures Governor or Commissioner of Education Guidance 	 Confirmed case(s) in building Consultation with Health Department Directed Health Measures Governor or Commissioner of Education Guidance 	 Confirmed case(s) in building Consultation with Health Department Directed Health Measures Governor or Commissioner of Education Guidance

Academic Plans

Valentine Community Schools Modified Learning Plan

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1iKNyGtEGkP6MbBji ZVTCe4qe HpDXzM16nu7OGXsWZk

	Building Procedures			
Gr	eenDHM Phase IVLow Risk	YellowDHM Phase IIIModerate Risk	OrangeDHM Phase IIElevated Risk	RedDHM Phase IPandemic
School/Academic Plan	School conducted as normalBuildings open	Increased social distancingBuildings open	Limited student contact	 Highly limited access to building In person, remote, or hybrid learning for PK-12 students will depend on the active number of cases within the school.
Temperature Checks	Temperature checks will not be required in the Green Phase unless otherwise communicated.	Temperature checks will be conducted as deemed necessary according to each individual school building, based on confirmed cases and consultation with the local health department.	Temperature checks will be conducted twice per day. • 100.4 threshold (home 24 hours fever free w/o medication) • An earlier return may be possible with a doctor's return to school note. • Temperatures for tardies students are taken in the office prior to going to class. Two step process • Temperature check in classroom (VHS) or at the door (VES, VMS) • Temperature check then in office to verify and send home	Temperature checks will be conducted twice per day. • 100.4 threshold (home 24 hours fever free w/o medication) • An earlier return may be possible with a doctor's return to school note. • Temperatures for tardies students are taken in the office prior to going to class. Two step process • Temperature check in classroom (VHS) or at the door (VES, VMS)

			 Temperatures taken in the morning upon arrival and again mid-day. (avoid after recess) Staff Temperature Check: Staff will take their own temp every morning and again at lunch. Begin documenting 9-21-2020. Staff will notify the administration and/or the school nurse if their temperature is 100.4 or higher. Temperatures over 100.4 will be documented with the building principal. 	 Temperature check then in office to verify and send home Temperatures taken in the morning upon arrival and again mid-day. (avoid after recess)
Custodial	 Daily routine cleaning procedures of student attendance centers Routine infectious disease protocol Staff will comply with State and/or local health department requirements Staff will follow manufacturer's instructions regarding the use and maintenance of equipment & use & storage of chemicals for cleaning & sanitizing. Spray bottles with disinfectant provided for all PK-12 	 Continue Level I procedures <u>plus</u> heightened disinfection of touch points or areas. Director will communicate with VCS Administration to identify areas of specific concern and communicate to custodians of affected student attendance centers the specific area(s), surface(s), schedule, procedure and product to be used for heightened disinfection. Custodians will provide heightened disinfection of touch points or areas of specific concern in student attendance centers identified by the Maintenance Director. Maintenance Director will determine routine cleaning schedules at each building and will require modification to meet heightened disinfection needs. 	 Continue Level I and II services plus increase disinfection procedures. Maintenance Director will communicate with VCS Administration to identify areas of specific concern. Increased frequency and increased number of surfaces within classrooms to be disinfected to include daily midday disinfection of desktops and touch points or areas of specific concern identified by the Maintenance Director. Maintenance Director will communicate to custodians of affected student attendance centers the specific area(s), surfaces(s), schedule, procedure and product to be used for heightened disinfection. Securing affected buildings VCS Administration to designate staff to shut down and secure affected building(s). Building access prohibited by all user groups. VCS Administration to coordinate/communicate with staff reopening procedures for affected school(s). 	 Securing affected buildings Building access may be prohibited by all user groups if the number of cases in the building warrants it. VCS Administration to designate staff to shut down and secure affected building(s) if active cases dictate such. Cleaning of buildings Affected building(s) will be cleaned as directed by the Health Department prior to student return. VCS Administration will determine staffing assignments and/or procedure modifications required.
Lunch and Breakfast	Breakfast and lunch served in the cafeteria.	 Breakfast with Social Distancing as determined at each building. Lunch in the cafeteria with physical distancing. Extra sanitation procedures will be used. Some food items may be limited. Parents will not be allowed to eat lunch with students. 	 Schedules will be developed that meet student and staff needs. Breakfast in the classroom at VHS; By Cohort and with social distancing in cafeteria (VES and VMS) some classrooms may be used as well. Lunch in the cafeteria with physical distancing. Some classrooms may be used as well. Staff encouraged to distance as much as possible while eating lunch/breakfast. Extra sanitation procedures will be used. Some food items may be limited. 	Grab and Go meals will be provided for families at designated schools if we are in a remote learning environment.

			Parents will not be allowed to eat lunch with students.	
Recess	Schools will continue to have recess as scheduled with handwashing or hand sanitizer upon entry.	 Schedules will be modified to minimize grade levels on the playground at one time. Cleaning will be completed regularly for equipment. 	 Schools will implement zones for recess for assigned students to support physical distancing. Schedules will be modified to minimize grade levels on the playground at one time. Cleaning will be completed daily for equipment. Balls, jump ropes, or hula hoops available if sanitized between grade level cohorts. 	Same as Orange zone
Field Trips	Regular field trip opportunities can be scheduled.	 Acceptable to an area with low to no disease risk. Outside field trips are preferred Social distancing encouraged, masks encouraged when not possible. 	 K-4 No off site elementary or preschool field trips until further notice without administrative approval. 5-8 VMS transportation will occur with required masks and social distancing. 	No field trips will be available
Specials	Students transition to music, art, PE, and media	Some specialist teachers may transition to classrooms.	Some specialist teachers may transition to classrooms.	Some specialist teachers may transition to classrooms.
Handwashing	PK-4 scheduled regularly throughout the day. 5-12 - Handwashing encouraged.	 PK-4 scheduled 3 times a day. 5-12Communication supporting hand washing. 	Same as yellow zone.	Same as yellow zone.
Hallways	 PK-4 students transition normally with staff support 5-12Regular transitions 	 PK-4 students transition and some specialists come to classrooms. 5-12Some areas of the building may be off limits. Scheduled transitions. 	 PK-4 students transition and some specialists come to classrooms. PK-12 students may be in isolated classrooms with only limited and scheduled hallway access. 	 PK-4 students transition and all specialists come to classrooms. PK-12 students may be in isolated classrooms with only limited and scheduled hallway access.
Lockers	Lockers/cubbies will be used normally	Buildings may implement a limited and staggered use of lockers/cubbies	Buildings may implement a limited and staggered use of lockers/cubbies	Buildings will implement a limited and staggered use of lockers/cubbies
Beginning of the day staff	PK-12 • Teachers will report for duty as assigned.	 Students enter the building upon arrival and are greeted by staff at the door. K-8 Teachers should be in their room and ready to receive students by: Rural: Regular Building Schedule VES: 8:00 AM VMS: 7:45 AM Students will enter the building when doors open at 7:45 for the middle school and the elementary students may go directly to their classroom for temperature checks upon arrival. VHS Students in the building prior to 7:45 need to be in an approved meeting/practice and be supervised by a teacher/coach/sponsor until the 7:50 bell 	 Teachers will report based on the schedule created and direction provided by the administration. If no further modification occurs, it will be: PK Students enter the building upon arrival and are greeted by staff at the door. K-8 Teachers should be in their room and ready to receive students by: Rural: Regular Building Schedule VES: 8:00 AM VMS: 7:45 AM Students will enter the building when doors open at 7:45 for the middle school and the elementary students may go directly to their classroom for temperature checks upon arrival. 	Teachers will report based on the schedule created and direction provided by the administration.

		 Students who are dropped off or arrive with a ride before 7:50 should remain in the cafeteria commons and social distancing practices will be followed. When the 7:50 bell rings, all students will be released from their practice/meeting/cafeteria and will report to their classroom for temperature checks. Teachers should be in their rooms and ready to receive students by 7:50 AM. 	 Students in the building prior to 7:50 need to be in an approved meeting/practice and be supervised by a teacher/coach/sponsor until the 7:50 bell Students who are dropped off or arrive with a ride before 7:50 should remain in the cafeteria commons and social distancing practices will be followed. Teachers should be in their rooms and ready to receive students by 7:50 AM.
Beginning of the day students	Students enter the building upon arrival and are greeted by staff at the door. K-12 Students will enter the building when doors open and go directly to their assigned areas as determined by the principal.	PK Students enter the building upon arrival and are greeted by staff at the door. K-4 Elementary students may enter the building at 8:00 AM and will receive temperature checks in line or in their classroom. S-8 Students will enter the building when doors open at 7:45 for the middle school and go directly to their classroom for temperature checks. VHS Students in the building prior to 7:50 need to be in an approved meeting/practice and be supervised by a teacher/coach/sponsor until the 7:50 bell Students who are dropped off or arrive with a ride before 7:50 should remain in the cafeteria commons and social distancing practices will be followed. When the 7:50 bell rings, all students will be released from their practice/meeting/cafeteria and will report to their classroom for temperature checks.	Students will report based on the schedule created and direction provided by the administration. If no further modification occurs, it will be: Students enter the building upon arrival and are greeted by staff at the door. K-4 Elementary students may enter the building at 8:00 AM and will receive temperature checks in line or in their classroom. Students will enter the building when doors open at 7:45 for the middle school and go directly to their classroom for temperature checks. VHS Students in the building prior to 7:50 need to be in an approved meeting/practice and be supervised by a teacher/coach/sponsor until the 7:50 bell Students who are dropped off or arrive with a ride before 7:50 should remain in the cafeteria commons and social distancing practices will be followed. When the 7:50 bell rings, all students will be released from their practice/meeting/cafeteria and will report based on the schedule created and direction provided by the administration. Students will report based on the schedule created and direction provided by the administration. Students will report based on the schedule created and direction provided by the administration.
End of the day	 K-12 Regular dismissal. All students will be required to leave the building at the end of the day unless in an approved activity or working with a teacher. 	 Buildings may stagger or vary dismissal to a max of 10 minute difference from ending time. Consider options for different groups to use different entrances. 	 Buildings will stagger dismissal to a max of 10 minute difference from ending time and dismiss from alternative locations at VHS and VMS. VES will dismiss as usual. This will be based upon the needs of the alternate schedule being used.

Building Access	 VCS events will not require a mask. Non VCS events are at the discretion of the event sponsors. Parents may eat lunch with their child when scheduled with the school office. 	 Parents and visitors must be regularly scheduled at VES Temp checks for visitors that enter the building. Masks may be required of visitors based on current case numbers. Masks are required at any VCS sponsored events when required by the DHM and Health Department. Non VCS events are at the discretion of the event sponsors. Parents will not be allowed to eat lunch with students 	 No outside visitors or user groups allowed on campus with the exception of ESU providers. ESU providers will be allowed with masks, unless otherwise advised. Parents will be allowed to attend IEP's, temperature checks will be required, appropriate mask wear will be required. A virtual option will be presented to parents. 	No outside visitors or user groups allowed on campus with the exception of ESU providers. ESU providers will be allowed with masks, unless otherwise advised.
Facemasks	 At the August 11, 2021 Board of Education meeting, it was determined that VCS will begin the year recommending masks, not requiring them. Face masks are not required in Green. 	 Face Masks and/or shields provided for all staff and students as long as supplies last. Face masks will only be required by the DHM and Health Department. Currently, (9-10-21) masks are recommended, not required. 	 Face Masks provided for all staff and students as requested. Staff required to wear masks. Students required to wear a mask. 	 Face Masks and/or shields provided for all staff and students as requested. Staff required to wear masks or shields. Students required to wear a mask.
Restrooms	Regularly scheduled	 Regularly scheduled Students are encouraged to use the restroom with permission from their classroom teacher. 	 Restroom use during passing periods is discouraged. Students are encouraged to use the restroom with permission from their classroom teacher. 	 Restroom use during passing periods is discouraged. Students are encouraged to use the restroom with permission from their classroom teacher.
Water Fountains	 K-4 Regularly scheduled water breaks. 5-12 Students are encouraged to bring individual water bottles. 	The Water Fountain is closely monitored and students are encouraged to bring individual water bottles.	The Water Fountain is closed and students are encouraged to bring individual water bottles.	The Water Fountain is closed and students are encouraged to bring individual water bottles.
Classroom Seating/Materials Usage/Sanitization	 Regular classroom/teacher preferred arrangement Regular classroom supply usage. Regular classroom cleaning. 	Encourage individual student supplies and Social Distancing.	 Desks separated and not in pods. (Avoid face to face seating options) Students may be limited to specific classrooms. Locations in the building as determined and outlined in a schedule which may/may not be a hybrid model. Increased sanitization measures Some materials will not be allowed. Only necessary items 	 Students may be limited to specific classrooms. Locations in the building as determined and outlined in a schedule which may/may not be a hybrid model. Increased sanitization measures Some materials will not be allowed. Only necessary items
Technology	 1-to-1 devices provided to all K-12 students. 1-to-1 devices K-5 stay at the building. 	 1-to-1 devices sent home daily 6-12. Devices will be cleaned daily according to tech department guidance. 	 1-to-1 devices sent home daily K-12 if remote or hybrid model. Devices will be cleaned daily according to tech department guidance. 	 1-to-1 devices sent home daily K-12 if remote or hybrid model. Devices will be cleaned daily according to tech department guidance.
6-12 Activities	Activities and Athletics will be conducted in accordance with NSAA guidelines	 Activities and Athletics will be conducted in accordance with NSAA guidelines Assess health risk of competitor & healthiness of 	 Activities and Athletics will be conducted in accordance with NSAA guidelines. Current Directed Health Measures (DHM) will 	Activities and Athletics will be conducted in accordance with NSAA guidelines.

		your team	 be followed. Assess health risk of competitor & healthiness of your team. Consider safety of hosting a large number of fans. Students would still be allowed to work and consult with their Internship Coordinator to determine enhanced safety measures that are necessary. Alternate assignments may be provided when site visits are not allowed. 	 Current Directed Health Measures (DHM) will be followed. Assess health risk of competitor & healthiness of your team. Consider safety of hosting a large number of fans. Students would still be allowed to work and consult with their Internship Coordinator to determine enhanced safety measures that are necessary. Alternate assignments may be provided when site visits are not allowed.
Student Attendance	All students in grades PK-12 will attend school in person.	 All students in grades PK-12 will attend school in person. Accommodations will be made for students in K-12 who are unable to attend due to Covid related reasons in person to utilize online learning through Zoom/ Google Meet and/or other remote learning tools. Students that are determined for exclusion by the health department will be provided with an excused absence. 	 All students in grades PK-12 will attend school in person and possibly follow a hybrid daily schedule. Details for a possible hybrid schedule will be provided prior to implementation. Accommodations will be made for students in K-12 who are unable to attend in person due to Covid reasons such as isolation, quarantine, pending test results, to utilize online learning through Zoom/Google Meet and/or other remote learning tools. Students that are determined for exclusion by the health department will be provided with an excused absence. Students with pre-existing health conditions that may put them at risk, alternative arrangements may be made on a case-by-case basis with the involvement of parents and the student. 	 All students in grades PK-12 will attend school in person and possibly follow a hybrid daily schedule. Details for a possible hybrid schedule will be provided prior to implementation. If remote learning is required, a schedule will be provided. Accommodations will be made for students in K-12 who are unable to attend in person to utilize online learning through Zoom/Google Meet and/or other remote learning tools.
Staff Attendance	 All staff will report as normal. Any questions or concerns relative to work expectations should be directed to the Superintendent. 	 All staff will report as directed. Any questions or concerns relative to work expectations should be directed to the Superintendent. 	 All staff will report as directed. Any questions or concerns relative to work expectations should be directed to the Superintendent. 	 All staff will report as directed. Any questions or concerns relative to work expectations should be directed to the Superintendent. All staff will be available during regular school hours for students, parents, and administration. Staff will need to be available to report to the building upon administrative request if we are required to be in a remote environment.

Potential Tiered Responses/Consultation with Health Department

1 or more confirmed case(s)* in the building of a student or staff member.

- A more restrictive environment will be implemented up to potential extended (6 days or more) building closure.
- The District will communicate the situation with building stakeholders.
- In the event of repeated confirmed cases, district officials will confer with the health department for a closure plan of that building.

	 School nurses will join a district team for building closure/reopening planning. Sanitization plan will be executed by the district facilities team. Building will execute an immediate remote learning plan and schedule (if the building is closed). Reopening communications will be provided to stakeholders from the district. In conjunction with the health department, exposures of the positive cases will be determined for exclusion. All quarantines are followed from NCDHD and the latest DHM. 		
1 confirmed case* of immediate household members of a staff member.	 The staff member may return to school and be required to mask if they are asymptomatic for 10 calendar days. If any Covid symptoms are shown, staff will be sent home to Isolate for 5 days. Staff may return on day 6 if fever free and symptoms have improved. Administration will communicate the return date for a staff member. 		
Household Positive Cases - 1 confirmed case* immediate household member of students.	 The student may return to school and be required to mask if they are asymptomatic for 10 calendar days. If any Covid symptoms are shown, students will be sent home to Isolate for 5 days. Students may return on day 6 if fever free and symptoms have improved Daily symptom checks will be conducted at school to verify there are no symptoms. 		
Confirmed exposure* of staff or travel to an impacted state/country/location.	 All quarantines are followed from NCDHD and the latest DHM. If unable to virtually teach due to caring for an immediate family member, the teacher will apply for FFCRA. Teacher continues to teach to the class virtually by following the remote learning plan (based on the situation) and/or a sub may be provided. 		
Confirmed exposure* of students or travel to an impacted state/country/location.	 All quarantines are followed from NCDHD and the latest DHM. Teachers will provide remote learning opportunities. 		
Visitor who has entered our building and is a confirmed case.	 A more restrictive environment could be implemented up to potential extended (6 days or more) building closure. The District will communicate the situation with building stakeholders. District officials will confer with the health department for a closure plan (if needed) of that building. School nurses will join a district team for building closure/reopening planning (if needed). Sanitization plan will be executed by the district facilities team. Building will execute an immediate remote learning plan and schedule (if the building is closed). Reopening communications will be provided to stakeholders from the district. 		
*A case is considered "confirmed" when the individual has had a positive *A confirmed exposure will be based on the continued tracing of the medic			
Short Term Closure	School building closed for up to 2-5 school days • Remote learning will be used by teachers		
Extended Building Closure	School building closed for 6 school days or more • Remote learning will be used by teachers		