



The Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind COVID-19 Mitigation Health Plan

Updated March 16, 2022

The VSDB Mitigation Plans are developed and maintained with the safety of students, staff, and the community in mind. The mitigation strategies outlined in the current plans meet or exceed the updated guidance levels provided by Virginia Governor Executive Order 2, General Assembly Legislation (Senate Bill 739 2022), the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), and the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE). VSDB's current plans reflect the highest level of safety criteria provided by those agencies and serve as the foundation for VSDB's implementation and maintenance of its mitigation health and safety strategies. As the pandemic situation improves and guidance is more relaxed, VSDB will adjust its level of implementation to reflect updated revised guidance.

The Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind (VSDB) COVID-19 Mitigation Health and Instructional Plans shall serve as the guidelines for the management of all programs and services during the continuing COVID health crisis and any subsequent resurgence of the pandemic within the Commonwealth of Virginia. The COVID-19 pandemic situation is an ever evolving one. As a result, this plan is considered a working document and will be revised as needed given updated information and guidance. The plan encompasses operations on the VSDB campus across all departments, including the School and Residential programs. The VSDB COVID-19 Mitigation Plans were developed in accordance with guidelines set forth by the CDC, the VDH, and the VDOE. The plan was developed by the VSDB COVID-19 Team with the safety and health of all students, employees, and visitors as a priority. The VSDB Director of Student Health Services and the Director of Public Safety are responsible for coordination of the plan and have oversight to provide adequate training and implementation across all departments. The goal of the plan is to establish a safe and healthy learning and working environment to the greatest extent possible. However, this goal can only be achieved through full participation of all students, employees, and visitors on the VSDB campus.

For the purposes of this document, the term, “mask” refers to a face covering that is at least two layers of protection and/or not porous to the light. “Buffs or Gators” are not considered masks and are not to be utilized at VSDB. Students are encouraged to wear their mask unless exempted for wearing a mask by a parent or guardian. As of Sunday, April 3, 2022, the use of masks is optional for all employees, and visitors.

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I. Admissions

Campus Tours

The Admissions office will offer tours of the school following current CDC and VDH guidelines. As of April 3, 2022, the VSDB campus will follow a mask optional policy for all employees and visitors. Employees and visitors are encouraged to utilize masks as they deem appropriate for their comfort level. Tours may be limited to the general campus layout with limited time in the school or residential halls in order to limit exposure to staff or students.

Visitors/TEMP Students

Visitors or TEMP Students will be required to follow all expectations of the *VSDB COVID-19 Health Mitigation Plan*.

II. Cafeteria and Dining Plan

Meal Service

- Breakfast will be served, Monday - Friday 6:30 a.m. - 7:45 a.m., in the Residential Halls. Day students will be offered a breakfast bag to take to class to eat.
- Lunch will be in one sitting from 11:30 am -12:00 pm. Students will be assigned seats maintaining 6-foot social distancing. No serving lines will be used. Students will be served at their tables.
- Dinner will be in one seating from 5:30 to 6:15p.m. Sunday dinner will be a boxed meal and students will eat in their Residential Halls from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- While eating in the residential halls, students will maintain 6-foot social distancing. Dining areas will be washed and sanitized.
- All staff involved in serving meals will receive training for required safety measures to implement during meal service.

Student Seating and Plate Delivery

This procedure will apply to all meals in the cafeteria, Student Center, and/or the residential halls.

- Students and employees will enter the cafeteria through designated doors. Doors will be propped open during meal times to allow for touchless entry and increased air flow.
- Social distancing will be observed. Students are encouraged to wear their mask until they are seated at the table unless exempted for wearing a mask by a parent or guardian. As of Sunday, April 3, 2022, the use of masks is optional for all employees, and visitors.
- Students will be assigned seats.
- School staff will deliver a plated meal to each student.
- Upon completion of the meal, Blind Department students will take their tray to the dish room window to be cleared and washed. Deaf Department students will place their trays on a designated cart to be transferred to the dish room.

- No items will be shared by students.
- Uneaten food that has been served will be thrown away even if pre-packaged.

Hygiene, Cleaning and Sanitizing

- All students and staff are encouraged to use hand sanitizer upon entering the cafeteria. Students are encouraged to wear their mask unless exempted for wearing a mask by a parent or guardian. As of Sunday, April 3, 2022, the use of masks is optional for all employees, and visitors.
- All staff serving food to students are required to wear gloves. If gloves become soiled they will be removed, hands washed and gloves changed.
- No self-serve items will be available.
- Students will be assigned a seat for all meals.
- There will be no sharing of food items or utensils.
- Social distancing will be maintained in accordance with the VDH and CDC guidelines.
- Each chair, table, milk cooler, microwave, serving line and entrance way will be cleaned and sanitized between each meal.
- Students and employees are encouraged to use hand sanitizer when exiting the dining area.
- Cafeteria employees will follow all CDC, VDH and VDOE guidelines.

Menu Adjustments

- Menu adjustments will be made in order to support healthy and safe dining procedures.
- There will be no shared food choices offered such as a salad bar or self-serve options.

Access to Cafeteria Bathrooms

- Bathrooms are monitored. Only one person is allowed in a bathroom at a time.
- Cafeteria employees will clean and sanitize bathrooms after each meal.

Water Availability

- Only water fountains with "bottle fillers" may be utilized. All other water fountains and dispensers will not be utilized.
- Water will be served from touchless dispenser units in the cafeteria.
- Employees will wear gloves to serve water to the students.

III. Communal Spaces Management

- All buildings will be equipped with hand sanitizer stations at entrances and exits.
- Use of shared communal space will be limited significantly. On such occasions that shared space is utilized, social distancing is encouraged. Students are encouraged to wear their mask unless exempted for wearing a mask by a parent or guardian. As of Sunday, April 3, 2022, the use of masks is optional for all employees, and visitors.

- Cleaning and disinfecting will be done between each use.
- Activities that involve cooking, ordering food delivery, and communal eating/snacking will adhere to VDH and CDC guidelines.
- All snacks, whether provided by VSDB or brought from home, must be individually prepackaged items.
- Cooking in Residential Halls will be limited to recipes with few ingredients and cooked and served by staff only until such time that restrictions are relaxed. Masks and gloves will be worn during food preparation and handwashing procedures followed. Work areas and equipment will be sanitized before and after use.
- Only vinyl or plastic furniture that is easily cleaned and sanitized will be utilized in shared spaces and will be cleaned and sanitized between uses.

IV. Day Students

- Day students will be required to participate in daily temperature checks upon arrival to campus.

V. Facilities Management

Building Ventilation

- The “unoccupied” setbacks have been disabled to ensure that fresh air is continually being brought into the building (disregarding energy saving guidelines).
- The amount of outside air has been increased that is being supplied to the buildings.
- Building temperatures will be maintained at normal building temperatures and relative humidity will be maintained to the greatest extent possible between 40% and 60% Relative Humidity (RH) to decrease the infectivity of most viruses in the air.

VI. Health and Safety Measures

- Should an individual not have a mask to use, a disposal mask will be provided.
- As VDH and CDC guidelines are updated and revised, students, families, and employees will receive notifications of any revisions to the VSDB Mitigation plans. Frequent reminders of mitigation strategies will be provided to students and employees and posted in buildings throughout campus.

VII. Instructional Plan

Please see the *VSDB COVID-19 Mitigation Instructional Plan* posted on the VSDB website.

VIII. Residential Housing Plan

Hygiene and Safety

- Hand sanitizer stations are located at the entrance/exit of each residential hall.

- Students and employees will use hand sanitizer upon entering the Residential Hall.
- Students are encouraged to wear their mask unless exempted for wearing a mask by a parent or guardian. As of Sunday, April 3, 2022, the use of masks is optional for all employees, and visitors.
- Activities will be conducted in small groups with social distancing being observed. Students are encouraged to wear their mask unless exempted for wearing a mask by a parent or guardian. As of Sunday, April 3, 2022, the use of masks is optional for all employees, and visitors.
- Signage will be placed in crucial areas to encourage students and employees to wear a mask. Students are encouraged to wear their mask unless exempted for wearing a mask by a parent or guardian. As of Sunday, April 3, 2022, the use of masks is optional for all employees, and visitors. Signage will also be posted with reminders to maintain social distance, frequent handwashing or use of hand sanitizer. Specially designed tactile reminders will be put into place for students who are visually impaired.

Cleaning and Sanitizing

- All residential space will be cleaned and sanitized in accordance with the VDH and CDC guidance. All areas will be cleaned daily using a two-step cleaning and sanitizing process with shared space being cleaned additionally to ensure a healthy residential setting.

Computer/Braille Access for Education Support

- There will be no shared computer space
- Each student will utilize a school issued appropriate device
- Braille will be cleaned/sanitized after each use

Meal Times

- Students and employees will follow the procedures for meal times as outlined in **Section II of the VSDB COVID-19 Mitigation Health Plan**

● Recess/Playgrounds/Student Center

- There will be restricted use of all communal play or activity areas as well as all equipment. Social distancing will be maintained. Students will be engaged in alternate activities that are either individually or small group based in order to maintain a high level of safety. Expanded use of the playground areas and equipment will be reviewed periodically in accordance with CDC and VDH guidelines.

- Students are encouraged to wear their mask unless exempted for wearing a mask by a parent or guardian. As of Sunday, April 3, 2022, the use of masks is optional for all employees, and visitors.

● Sports

- VSDB will not participate in any competitive athletic activities this school year.
- Intramural activities and sport clinics will be facilitated following all health and safety guidelines from VDOE, VDH, and the CDC.

IX. Student Health Services

Student Health Services Overview

VSDB working together with the local Staunton-Augusta Health Department has an important role in slowing the spread of COVID-19 to help maintain a safe and healthy learning environment to the greatest extent possible for students, staff, and the community. All of these individuals may have close contact in the school setting, often sharing spaces, equipment, and supplies. Therefore, it will be vital that everyone work together as a team to prevent and control the spread of COVID-19 by following the guidelines provided by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the VDH, the VDOE, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and other agencies during this fluid situation.

Coordination with Local Health Department

The VSDB Director of Student Health Services will maintain contact with the local Staunton-Augusta Health Department. The VSDB will adhere to the most current guidance from the VDH in partnership with the VDOE.

The VSDB Student Health Center (SHC) staff will communicate with the local health department if any students or staff have tested positive for or have had a potential exposure to COVID-19. VSDB SHC staff will assist the VDH with providing necessary information, maintaining confidentiality of students or staff, who have tested positive for the virus, and may assist with contact tracing as part of the partnership established between the public health offices. VDH staff will have the lead responsibility for conducting case investigation and contact tracing. “According to §32.1-41 of the Code of Virginia, VDH is required to maintain the anonymity of any persons reported to have a reportable disease, including COVID-19. The State Health Commissioner can release identifying information about such an individual if pertinent to an investigation. Therefore, VDH staff conducting case investigations and contact tracing will make every effort to preserve the confidentiality of the information gained through these processes and will follow strict procedures that allow for sharing the minimal amount of information that is deemed necessary to ensure protection of the health of others.” This statement in its entirety can be located on the VDH website in “*Contact Tracing as a Partnership Involving VDH, the Child and Parents/Guardians, and Schools/Child Care Programs*”.

VSDB and the VDH are committed to coordinating care and all activities necessary to ensure the health, safety, and confidentiality of those in affected communities throughout Virginia.

The SHC will continue coordination with the VSDB Human Resource Department in managing workers compensation claims and will assist employees with communications and health care needs already established for that process.

Promoting Proper Hygiene, Social Distancing, Face Coverings

The SHC staff will promote and assist with the training of proper hygiene, social distancing and the use of masks or face coverings for employees and students. Students are encouraged to wear their mask unless exempted for wearing a mask by a parent or guardian. As of Sunday, April 3, 2022, the use of masks is optional for all employees, and visitors.

SHC staff will encourage these basic preventative measures:

- Encouraging students and employees to cover their mouth and nose with a tissue when they cough or sneeze, place the used tissue in the trash, and then wash their hands. If tissues are unavailable, encourage students and employees to cough or sneeze into the upper sleeve or elbow, not onto their hands. Then they should wash their hands.
- Encourage students and employees to avoid touching their face with their hands as much

as possible.

- Students are encouraged to wear their mask unless exempted for wearing a mask by a parent or guardian. As of Sunday, April 3, 2022, the use of masks is optional for all employees, and visitors.
- Encourage individuals to avoid close contact with people who are sick and report when he/she is not feeling well. Wash hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer.

Hand Hygiene

Students and employees will demonstrate healthy hygiene practices, including handwashing or the use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers, to prevent infections and reduce the number of germs on their hands. Handwashing is the single most effective infection control intervention (CDC). “Handwashing mechanically removes pathogens, while laboratory data demonstrate that 60% ethanol and 70% isopropyl alcohol, the active ingredients in CDC-recommended alcohol-based hand sanitizers, inactivates viruses that are genetically related to, and with similar physical properties as COVID-19.” Proper hand hygiene is performed by washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using hand sanitizer with 60-95% alcohol content until it dries. If your hands are visibly soiled, use soap and water if at all possible. ***Do not use products containing methanol, as that chemical is toxic to humans.***

Students and employees will have access to handwashing supplies or hand sanitizer while on campus and during transportation to and from school. Hand sanitizer dispensers will be located throughout the campus where sinks and other hand washing facilities are not readily available. Students, employees, and others on campus will be encouraged to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer often, but especially:

- After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- After using the restroom.
- Before eating or preparing food.
- Before and after touching your face.
- After playing outside.
- Before and after providing routine care for another person who needs assistance (e.g., a child).
- Before putting on and after removing gloves.
- After touching frequently touched areas (e.g., doorknobs, handrails, shared computers)
- Individuals providing health care services should perform hand hygiene before and after contact with each patient, contact with potentially infectious material, and before putting on and after removing PPE, including gloves.

Social distancing

VSDB students and employees will practice physical or social distancing as an important prevention strategy. The CDC advises that individuals ‘maintain six feet of distance to reduce the risk of COVID-19

transmission. VSDB will practice recommended social distancing across all departments, in all buildings, and while transporting students and/or staff. Physical distancing is not limited to distancing between students; physical distancing between adults is a key preventative measure as well. As new recommendations are released, VSDB will update its procedures and requirements.

Face coverings

- Students are encouraged to wear their mask unless exempted for wearing a mask by a parent or guardian. As of Sunday, April 3, 2022, the use of masks is optional for all employees, and visitors.
- “CDC recommends that people wear cloth face coverings in public settings and when around people who don’t live in your household, especially when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.
- Face coverings must be worn appropriately covering the nose and the mouth at all times.
- Face coverings do not include the use of “buffs” or “gators” and it is recommended that face coverings be at least two layers of protection and/or not porous to the light.
- Cloth face coverings may help prevent people who have COVID-19 from spreading the virus to others.
- Cloth face coverings are most likely to reduce the spread of COVID-19 when they are widely used by people in public settings.
- Cloth face coverings should NOT be worn by children under the age of 2 or anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.”

VSDB SHC staff will wear surgical face masks and/or additional personal protective equipment (gowns, goggles, gloves and face shields) to reduce direct exposure to the virus if a student or a staff member is symptomatic and presents to the SHC. VSDB will utilize PPE in compliance with the Virginia Occupational Safety and Health (VOSH) standards and the Virginia Department of Health.

Health and Absenteeism Monitoring

VSDB Student Health Center will assist in training and education for students and employees specifically for handwashing, wearing masks properly, social distancing, temperature checks, and staying home when sick. VSDB Student Health Center will assist as needed and as required in monitoring students and employee temperatures. Other practices encouraged by the CDC and VDH to establish an effective screening process for students and employees may also be implemented. New guidance and procedures may need to be added to reflect the needs of the VSDB community and the ever-changing virus.

- Parents will be required to report if their child has been symptomatic or has been exposed to the COVID-19 virus **prior** to returning to school.
- Parents will be required to come pick up their child from VSDB if their child becomes symptomatic as outlined in the *VSDB-Parent Service Agreement* that applies to any situation where the child may be injured or ill and VSDB deems it necessary for the child to go home. The student will be isolated from other students until the parents arrive.

- Parents are also required to self-report any time a suspected exposure to COVID-19 of their child or any member of the household.
- All VSDB employees will be required to self-report if they are symptomatic and/or have been exposed to COVID-19 each day prior to reporting to work.
- VSDB is required to inform all stakeholders, including parents/guardians in the event of any known exposure or confirmed case of COVID-19 on campus.
- VSDB will not provide or administer any COVID testing on campus. This includes any testing kits provided by parents or guardians. Parents or guardians are responsible for the testing of students as they deem necessary or on the recommendation of VSDB SHC staff.
- The SHC will monitor and track the data related to student and employee positive COVID cases and report any increases or trends to the local health department for guidance.

Communication Concerning Community Health Issues

The National Association of School Nurses (NASN) “*Considerations for School Nurses Regarding Care of Students and Staff that Become Ill at School or Arrive Sick*” encourages the school to work closely with the local health department and families to communicate and share resources on when to keep children home. The resources should include information on COVID and what is happening in school to keep the children safe and healthy. Additional information and resources on stress management, self-care, mental health, local food pantries and other community resources that may be helpful during this time can be found on the VSDB webpage. Key site links are below:

The Virginia Department of Education

<https://www.doe.virginia.gov/>

The Center for Disease Control

<https://www.cdc.gov/>

The Virginia Department of Health

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/>

Establish Minimum Supply Placement for PPE and Sanitizing Agents

VSDB SHC staff and all departments will work with the VSDB Procurement Officer to maintain a consistent supply of PPE, including surgical masks, gloves, gowns and goggles.

Management of Non-COVID Health Issues, Routine Student Health Operations

SHC staff will provide daily care to students. Students needing scheduled medications will go to the SHC medication on a staggered schedule. If any student is exhibiting any signs or symptoms of illness, the student will be sent to the SHC. Residential and school staff working with students that are feeling ill will be required to call the SHC immediately so that SHC can properly triage and isolate the ill student if needed. Any ill student will be seen in an isolated area of the SHC to decrease the chance of transmission from one student or staff to another. Any employee that becomes ill while at work will be sent home.

Response to Suspected or Confirmed Covid-19 Students or Employees

- If a student or is not feeling well or registers an elevated temperature, he/she should stay home and not enter the campus.

- If a student or employee experiences symptoms of COVID-19 while at school, he/she will be removed from the classroom or group setting and isolated in a predetermined location and the SHC staff will be notified immediately. SHC staff will be required to wear personal protective equipment (PPE), including a surgical or N95 face mask, goggles and gloves before entering the room to evaluate the individual. If deemed necessary, parents will be notified to pick up their student. If an employee is unable to drive home, arrangements will be made for the employee to be picked up. The student/employee may be required to self-quarantine following VDH/CDC guidelines before returning to school/work. If symptoms persist or worsen they should contact their healthcare provider.
- If there is a confirmed case of COVID 19 on campus, the VDH will work closely with VSDB SHC staff to determine a course of action.

Cleaning and Disinfection

The VSDB Housekeeping Department will provide guidelines for cleaning and disinfecting areas, various surfaces, and equipment for each department. The main mode of COVID-19 spread is from person to person, primarily via droplet transmission. For this reason, strategies for infection prevention should center around this form of spread, including physical distancing, face coverings, and hand hygiene. Given the challenges that may exist in children and adolescents in effectively adhering to recommendations, it is critical that all employees set a good example for students by modeling behaviors around physical distancing, face coverings and hand hygiene. However, because the virus may survive on certain surfaces for some time, it is possible to get infected after touching a virus contaminated surface and then touching the mouth, eyes, or nose, therefore, frequent handwashing is vital.

Cleaning will be performed per established protocols followed by disinfection when appropriate. Normal cleaning with soap and water decreases the viral load and optimizes the efficacy of disinfectants. When using disinfectants, the manufacturers' instructions will be followed, including duration of dwell time, use of personal protective equipment (PPE), if indicated, and proper ventilation. SHC staff will work with VSDB Housekeeping staff to ensure that proper cleaning and disinfection is occurring daily, but specifically if there is a confirmed COVID-19 case on campus. VSDB housekeeping staff will provide guidelines for cleaning and sanitizing for all areas on campus. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.htm>

X. VSDB Sponsored Activities

All VSDB sponsored activities on campus, either open or closed to the public, will be planned and implemented in accordance with the VDH, CDC, and VDOE guidelines.

XI. Transportation Plan

All transportation procedures follow Federal legislation, the VDH, and CDC guidelines to support a healthy travel environment for students and employees. Students are encouraged to wear their mask while being transported by VSDB, unless exempted for wearing a mask by a parent or guardian. As of Sunday, April 3, 2022, the use of masks is optional for all employees, including during the transportation of students or employees. No food or beverage is allowed to be consumed while transporting students.

Field Trips and Residential Outings

- School and Residential off-campus field trips and outings will not be allowed during the second semester.

- This includes trips off campus to local stores for food, toiletries, and other items. Parents need to ensure that students arrive on Sunday to campus supplied with all personal items and/or individualized snacks that they may need for the week.

Miscellaneous Transportation Needs

- All additional transportation needs will adhere to the VDH and CDC guidelines.
- During the pandemic period, VSDB will not provide transportation for students to doctor appointments.

Day Students

- Parents are encouraged to communicate with their student's school system to determine their procedures for transportation and compliance with CDC and VDH guidelines.

Friday Homegoing and Sunday Return Trips

- Hygiene/cleaning
 - Charter Buses
 - Buses will be cleaned and disinfected prior to departure for each trip. A verification checklist will be maintained in each vehicle.
 - VSDB Vehicles
 - Buses, Vans and Automobiles will be cleaned and disinfected according to CDC recommendations prior to departure for each trip. A verification checklist will be maintained in each vehicle.
 - Ventilation in Vehicles
 - If the weather allows and if at all possible, windows will be open at a comfortable level in order to increase overall ventilation.
 - Luggage
 - May be restricted due to space
 - Suitcases may be secured in the available seat next to the student or in the cargo bay of the charter bus or secured in the back of the van.
 - Smaller items such as bookbags will be secured or placed under the seat.
 - Boarding Procedures at VSDB
 - Social distancing is maintained. Students will sit one per row in staggered rows.
 - All students will participate in temperature checks prior to occupying any vehicle.
 - Students will use hand sanitizer prior to getting on/in vehicles.
 - Students are encouraged to wear their mask unless exempted for wearing a mask by a parent or guardian. As of Sunday, April 3, 2022, the use of masks is optional for all employees.

▪ Hub Procedures (**Fridays**)

The following protocol will be followed in meeting parents/guardians/LEAs at the hubs on Fridays:

- Upon arrival at the hub, parents/guardians/LEAs are asked to remain in their cars and are *required to* wear masks.
- Social distancing is maintained.
- Students are encouraged to wear their mask unless exempted for wearing a mask by a parent or guardian. As of Sunday, April 3, 2022, the use of masks is optional for all employees during transportation.
- Students will use hand sanitizer prior to departing the bus/vehicle.
- Employees will distribute medications directly to parents/guardians/LEAs car by car.
- All other students not departing the bus/vehicle will remain in their assigned seats.
- Employees will be prepped with PPE and approach each vehicle in order to distribute Homegoing folders and medications as applicable.
- Luggage will be given to each student and then the student may go to their vehicle for transportation home.
- If not on a charter bus and restrooms are needed, employees will coordinate the use of the hub restrooms in order to support the safest use possible.
- Upon returning to their vehicle, students will be required to use hand sanitizer.

▪ Hub Procedures (**Sundays**)

The following protocol will be followed in meeting parents/guardians/LEAs at the hubs on Sundays:

- Upon arrival at the hub, in order to maintain social distance, parents & students are required to wear masks and to remain in their car and wait for the VSDB staff to approach them. VSDB staff will be prepped with PPE and approach each parent and student.
- Handoff of student medications will be done by parents/guardians/LEAS placing the medications inside a large Ziploc bag.
- All students will be scanned for temperature checks prior to onboarding the bus. This is a required safety measure.
 - If the student's temperature is 100 or over, the employee will ask the family to wait a few minutes and go to the next car.
 - Employees will wipe the thermometer prior to testing the next student.

- Upon completion of the next car, the employee returns to take 2nd temperature.
- Once cleared, the student will use hand sanitizer prior to getting on the vehicle and parents are free to leave. Students are encouraged to wear their mask unless exempted for wearing a mask by a parent or guardian. As of Sunday, April 3, 2022, the use of masks is optional for all employees, and visitors.
- If not cleared, parents will take the student home.
- Students are to remain in their assigned seats and may stand in place and stretch at designated stops.
- Students are strongly encouraged to use the charter bus restroom; if unavailable, staff and student(s) will go into the restroom at the hub stop.
- Upon arriving at VSDB, students remain seated and employees will direct the departure out of bus/vehicle in order to maintain social distancing and safety.

Snacks and Drinks During Transport

- Snacks and drinks will not be allowed while in transport with students unless an emergency arises (ex: breakdown, stalled traffic, medical emergency)

XII. Visitors on Campus

All visitors arriving on campus without an appointment will be required to check in through the Security Office. The officer will advise visitors to schedule an appointment with the appropriate VSDB office. Where there is an immediate need to access campus or an employee, the security officer shall contact the receiving department, and ensure COVID-19 policies and practices are being met prior to escorting the visitor to their destination.

Visitors arriving with a scheduled appointment will be the responsibility of the receiving party or department. The security officer will coordinate and escort following COVID-19 protocols.

As of Sunday, April 3, 2022, the use of masks is optional for all employees, and visitors.

XIII. Volunteers

Due to COVID-19 concerns, the VSDB Volunteer Program will continue to be suspended during this school year.

XIV. Future Pandemic Closures

VSDB will continuously monitor and track the health and condition of the student body, and employees in all departments. The Superintendent or designee shall be immediately informed of any student or employee reporting positive symptoms or suspected exposure for COVID-19. The Superintendent shall convene necessary members of the COVID-19 Team and assess the situation and make determinations for continued, reduced, or suspended operations on campus.

VSDB will seek guidance from the local VDH in order to determine if conditions warrant a closure of the agency. Conditions that may require an agency or school closure include, but are not limited to:

- Reduction in staff to a level where delivery of services is below minimum acceptable standards for any department.
- Potentials for student exposure to include possible transmission of the disease beyond the campus.
- Potentials for one or more regions of the State where students reside being assessed at a Phase 1 level emergency.
- A State-wide declaration of a Phase 1 emergency.
- A determination to suspend school operations will require coordination of transportation to evacuate residential students from campus and notification to LEA's and parents/guardians.
- Additional State agency notifications will be coordinated by the Superintendent or designee.

If you have any questions regarding the VSDB COVID-19 Mitigation Health Plan, please contact:

Pat Trice
Superintendent
patricia.trice@vsdbs.virginia.gov
(540)332-9000