



Vertus HIGH SCHOOL

21 Humboldt Street
Rochester, New York 14609

Tel (585) 747-8911
Fax (585) 254-1251

Vertus High School 2021 Reopening Guide

The health and safety of students, staff, and their families are always our top priority. This Reopening Plan for the 2021-22 school year considers guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, New York State Education Department, the Monroe County Department of Public Health, and the Vertus Leadership team. We plan to welcome back students for in-person instruction five days a week on **Thursday, September 2, 2021**. Questions specific to your child's school should be directed to the Director of Student Success, Mr. Levi Bennett.

Masking

- Universal indoor masking for all students, staff, teachers & visitors is required except when eating meals and seated at least 3 feet apart.
- Students and staff may remove masks when seated and physically distanced by at least 3 feet.
- Masks will be optional during physical education classes and athletic events, including masking for spectators.
- Students and staff must be masked on buses or in school vehicles.

Mask protocols are subject to change based on current CDC guidance.

Vaccination

- Attaining high levels of COVID-19 vaccination among eligible students, staff, and household members are defined as among the most crucial strategies to promote uninterrupted full, in-person learning. Vaccinations are strongly encouraged but are not currently required*.

*Vaccination requirements may change based on state or county legislation.

Physical Distancing

- CDC guidance aligns with transmission zone level designation. If low/moderate, no distancing requirements. If substantial/high, 3 feet distancing requirements where practical.
- Monroe County's designation will determine the minimum expectation for physical distancing in school. As of August 19, 2021, we are designated as a "high" transmission zone, so 3 feet is expected. Current County levels can be monitored via its COVID-19 dashboard.
- We expect distancing in cafeterias and eating spaces to be 3 feet. Student seating should be consistent to the extent possible.



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Testing

- At this time, we will not be conducting school-based surveillance (screen) testing. However, surveillance testing is recommended for unvaccinated students and staff when moderate, substantial, or high community transmission rates.
- Families will be notified, and parental/guardian consent will be needed before any testing

Handwashing

- All students and staff will be trained to follow COVID-19 protocols safely and correctly, including hand hygiene, proper face-cover wearing, physical distancing, and respiratory hygiene.
- Hand hygiene stations will be maintained with soap, running water, and disposable towels where available. Where not feasible, alcohol-based sanitizer containing 60% or more alcohol will be available.
- Isolation rooms are no longer required. Should a person become ill or exhibit symptoms during school, they will be required to remain masked and separated by at least 6 feet until picked up. Individuals will be encouraged to contact their physician for further evaluation.

Cleaning/Disinfecting

- Custodians and staff will clean high-touch surfaces throughout the day and complete deep clean nightly. Cleaners will adhere to CDC cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitization recommendations, employing many successful practices throughout the 2020-21 school year.
- Cleaners will continue to maintain daily cleaning logs for all spaces.

Staying Home/Isolation/Quarantine

- Students and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness or COVID-19 should remain home and refer to their healthcare provider for care and testing regardless of vaccination status.
- Individuals should remain home until symptoms subside or they obtain a negative COVID-19 test.
- Students who are quarantined, in isolation, or home sick can access their classes should access their classes
- Schools will provide consistent reminders to students/staff to remain home if they have COVID-like symptoms and contact their physician.



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Contact Tracing

- Vertus will continue to collaborate with state and local health officials, to the extent allowable by privacy laws and other applicable laws, to confidentially provide information, such as contact tracing, about people diagnosed with or exposed to COVID-19.

Sports/Clubs

- The NYSPHSAA, the governing body of NYS athletics, has directed schools to follow safety protocols aligned with the latest guidance from the NYSED, their local health department, and school.
- Student-athletes masking will be encouraged, but optional, when practicing or competing indoors; masking is optional outdoors.
- There are no spectator limitations for indoor/outdoor sports.
- Coaches and athletes will be allowed minimal locker room use (and be masked).
- Daily health screenings are not required; athletes/coaches should follow school guidelines in terms of sickness or symptoms. If out due to illness, students should communicate information with their coach before returning to participation. Coaches should do the same with the athletic director.
- All of these protocols should be followed regardless of vaccination status.