



Victor Valley College

FALL SEMESTER TEMPORARY PROTOCOLS AND GUIDANCE

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Overview

Victor Valley College provides the following guidelines to help plan and prepare to resume in-person instruction for fall 2021. Victor Valley College has based the guidelines on the best available public health data at this time and the practical realities of managing operations. This guidance is subject to change in compliance with revised Cal/OSHA regulations and local public health ordinances.

Additionally, the guidelines and considerations do not reflect the full scope of issues that Victor Valley College education will need to address. Implementation of this guidance as part of a phased reopening will depend on County and State conditions including epidemiologic trends (such as new COVID-19 case and hospitalization rates over at least 14 days).

The guidance is part of a broader health and safety protocol applicable to all students and members of the public. This guidance does not revoke or repeal any worker rights, either statutory, regulatory or collectively bargained. Moreover, the protocols are not exhaustive, as developments continue to arise. The guidance supplements local public health orders and is not intended to substitute existing safety and health-related regulatory requirements such as those of Cal/OSHA.

As the nature of the pandemic is rapidly evolving, these guidelines are a moving target. We may see changes to these regulations in the near future.

Required Use of Face Coverings

The San Bernardino County Department of Public Health (SBCDPH) and the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) allow for fully vaccinated employees to engage in regular activities, both indoor and outdoor, without wearing a mask (See [SBCOVID-19 FAQs](#), 2021.)

In light of the highly transmissible Delta variant and the most recent Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations, on July 28, 2021, CDPH released updated guidance for the use of face coverings. The new guidance recommends that fully vaccinated employees should mask in indoor public settings across California (CDPH [Order](#), July 28, 2021.)

Victor Valley College is mandating face coverings in all buildings on campus for the fall semester for faculty and students, regardless of vaccination status.

- a. Face coverings are required in all classrooms on campus for the fall semester. All classroom participants, including instructors, instructional assistants, guests, and students, must wear a face covering while in class.
 - i. Any exceptions for students due to a medical condition must be approved by ACCESS.
- b. Regardless of vaccination status, no employee, student, or visitor is required to wear face coverings outdoors when social distancing is possible.
- c. Unvaccinated employees have the option to request an N95 Respirator. To request an N95 Respirator, please contact your direct supervisor, or Benjamin Lehan at Benjamin.Lehan@vvc.edu.
 - i. Training will be required for any employees requesting an N95 respirator.
- d. Fully vaccinated faculty has the option to wear a face shield instead of a face covering during instructional activities.
- e. Other exceptions for face coverings indoors include:
 - i. Sitting alone at your desk when NOT within 6 feet of someone else.

- ii. Being alone in a room,
- iii. Eating or drinking.
- iv. Using a respirator or other respiratory protection.
- v. Communicating with a hearing-impaired person.
- vi. Any exceptions for employees due to a medical condition must be approved by Human Resources.

Students are required to wear face coverings in any building on campus, regardless of vaccination status. For students, a face shield is not a substitute for a surgical mask or face covering. Instructors and students requiring reasonable accommodations related to personal protective equipment need to contact Benjamin Lehan in Human Resources at Benjamin.Lehan@vvc.edu.

DO choose masks that



Have two or more layers of washable, breathable fabric



Completely cover your nose and mouth



Fit snugly against the sides of your face and don't have gaps



Have a nose wire to prevent air from leaking out of the top of the mask

General Measures

As of now, Victor Valley College does not intend to collect vaccination information from students or campus visitors. **The College will assume all students and campus visitors are unvaccinated, and all participants in a classroom setting regardless of vaccination status must wear a face covering (See Page 3).**

In accordance with the District's COVID-19 protocols, all employees are required to confirm their vaccination status with Human Resources if they wish to be considered "Fully Vaccinated". The information to be provided by the employee is considered confidential and will only be used for legitimate, non-discriminatory business purposes where information regarding an employee's vaccination status is necessary for the District to make work-related decisions authorized by or in order to comply with federal, state, or local laws that take an employee's vaccination status into account.

The links needed to for employees to submit the verification of their vaccination can be found here:

- [Employee Self-Attestation of COVID-19 Vaccination Status Form](#)
- [Employee Authorization for the District's Use and Disclosure of Confidential Medical Information Form](#)

Upon the submission of each form, you will receive an email confirmation. The email will contain instructions on how to access a copy of the form for your records. Please be patient, these emails take time to verify and distribute.

Upon verification of the submitted forms and documentation, Human Resources will notify you and your manager of the safety protocols in place for you based on your vaccination status.

Promote Healthy Hygiene Practices

Promote and reinforce washing hands, avoiding contact with one's eyes, nose, and mouth, and covering coughs and sneezes among students and staff.

The District recommends that students, faculty, and staff frequently wash their hands for 20 seconds with soap, rubbing thoroughly after application. Using “antimicrobial” soap is not necessary or recommended.

The District encourages students, faculty, and staff to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or use the inside of the elbow. Students, faculty, and staff should throw used tissues in the trash and wash hands immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Students, staff, and faculty should use hand sanitizer when hand washing is not practicable.

Maintenance and Operations will provide hand sanitizer.

Cleaning and Disinfection

Maintenance and Operations will spray disinfectant in classrooms during evening shifts.

Instructional Assistants are encouraged to clean classrooms and laboratory settings between usages.

VVC will place masks, hand sanitizer, and sanitization wipes in each classroom to allow students to clean their own workstation prior to the beginning of class activities.

Implement Distancing on Campus

Currently, both State and County regulations place no capacity limits on events with fewer than 10,000 attendees, such as an in-service faculty training.

([SBCOVID-19 FAQs](#), 2021; CDPH, [Beyond the Blueprint for Industry and Business Sectors](#), May 21, 2021.)

Physical distancing requirements have been eliminated except where an employer determines there is a hazard and during major outbreaks.

Although social distancing is not required, campus participants are still encouraged to socially distance when possible.

Methods of physical distancing include:

- vii. Reducing the number of persons in an area at one time, including visitors.
- viii. Visual cues such as signs and floor markings to indicate where employees and others should be located and/or their direction and path of travel.

Lecture activities in classrooms should include student seating with social distancing as a priority. We encourage instructors to include social distancing to the best of their ability. Lab activities should also include social distancing to the extent possible.

Food Service & Dining Halls

Students are not required to wear face coverings when eating or drinking on campus.

Eating is prohibited in classrooms to avoid the need to remove masks. Drinking water is allowed in class when necessary. Individuals should put their masks back on immediately after drinking water.

Self-Check for Signs and Symptoms

Employees and students must monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 and are not to enter campus if they have any symptoms. **All employees and students are required to complete the VVC Safe self-declaration every time they visit campus.** This can be completed online with the VVCSAFE application through MyVVC, or through the Android/iOS phone application. The online link can be found here: <https://vvcsafe.vvc.edu/>. We highly encourage you to download the smartphone application in order to make this process as easy as possible. The smart phone applications can be found here:

- a. Android Mobile app Instructions and download:
<https://vvc.instructure.com/courses/12862/files?preview=1412036>
- b. iOS/Apple Mobile app Instructions and download:
<https://vvc.instructure.com/courses/12862/files?preview=1412037>

COVID-19 symptoms, as described by the CDC, include:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Individual Control Measures and Screening

VVC does not currently require regularly scheduled COVID-19 tests for employees or students. However, the County of San Bernardino offers free COVID-19 tests through its testing site located on lower campus.

COVID-19 testing site on lower campus is available at no cost to all VVC employees and accessible Mondays through Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

To make an appointment please visit the link below:

<https://sb.fulgentgenetics.com/appointment/screen/landing>

The District has not mandated COVID-19 vaccines for students and employees but strongly encourages them. Vaccination gives you an added layer of protection against COVID-19 and could protect your coworkers, family, and other students.

Isolation & Quarantine

Faculty and staff do not need to isolate or quarantine after exposure to a positive COVID-19 case **if they are fully vaccinated and have no symptoms**. However, all employees and students are required to notify their supervisor/instructor and HR, if they are exposed.

Under updated guidance issued by the [California Department of Public Health \("CDPH"\)](#), asymptomatic unvaccinated employees or students who have had a close contact exposure to COVID-19 may end their quarantine and return to campus seven (7) days after the exposure as opposed to ten (10) days.

The CDPH guidance provides that unvaccinated individuals who have a close contact exposure may discontinue the required quarantine after seven (7) days,

so long as the individual is asymptomatic, is tested for COVID-19 at least five (5) days after the exposure, and the test produces a negative result.

Duration of Quarantine for Unvaccinated Individuals

Asymptomatic unvaccinated employees who have a close contact exposure may discontinue their quarantine and return to work under either of the following circumstances:

1. Ten (10) days after the date of the last known close contact exposure *without* being tested for COVID-19; or
2. Seven (7) days after the last known close contact exposure if the employee is tested for COVID-19 no earlier than the fifth (5th) day following the last exposure and the employee tests negative.

In addition to the rules regarding the discontinuation of the quarantine, asymptomatic unvaccinated employees should continue daily self-monitoring for symptoms and communicate with Benjamin Lehan regarding the details of their quarantine.

A student can end their exposure quarantine early if they voluntarily present their COVID vaccination card to Benjamin Lehan and they have no symptoms.

Benjamin Lehan at Benjamin.Lehan@vvc.edu will conduct contact tracing.

Employees and students with a family member testing positive for COVID-19 are encouraged to inform us of this information, and quarantine for 10 days from the start of the individual's symptoms.

Train Staff & Students

Human Resources will assign online training through *Keenan Safe Schools* to all faculty, staff, and employees.

Glossary

COVID-19 - Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2).

COVID-19 symptoms - A fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea, unless a licensed health care professional determines the person's symptoms were caused by a known condition other than COVID-19.

Exposed Group - All employees at a work location, working area, worksite, or a common area at work, where an employee COVID-19 case was present at any time during the high-risk exposure period.

Fully vaccinated - The employer has documented that the person received, at least 14 days prior, either the second dose in a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine series or a single-dose COVID-19 vaccine. Vaccines must be FDA approved; have an emergency use authorization from the FDA; or, for persons fully vaccinated outside the United States, be listed for emergency use by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Face Covering – Surgical mask, medical procedure mask, a respirator worn voluntarily, or a tightly woven fabric or non-woven material of at least two layers. A face covering has no visible holes or openings and must cover the nose and mouth. This does not include a scarf, ski-mask, balaclava, bandana, turtleneck, collar, or single layer of fabric.

Face Shield – Transparent barrier that covers the face and is typically open at the bottom and sides. Although primarily used by healthcare workers, a face shield is not legally a face covering.

High-Risk Exposure Period - For COVID-19 cases who develop COVID-19 symptoms, from two days before they first develop symptoms until 10 days after symptoms first appeared, and 24 hours have passed with no fever, without the use of fever-reducing medications, and symptoms have improved. For persons who test positive but never develop COVID-19 symptoms, from two days before until ten days after the specimen for their first positive test for COVID-19 was collected.

Outbreak - At least three confirmed employee COVID-19 cases within a 14-day period within the same worksite.

Major Outbreak – 20 or more confirmed employee COVID-19 cases within a 30-day period within the same worksite.

Respirator - A respiratory protection device approved by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) to protect the wearer from particulate matter, such as an N95 filtering face piece respirator.

Worksite - The building, store, facility, agricultural field, or other location where a worker worked during the infectious period. It does not apply to buildings, floors, or other locations of the employer that a qualified individual did not enter. In a multi-worksite environment, the employer need only notify employees who were at the same worksite as the qualified individual.