



VALLEY HEIGHTS  
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

**Reentry Plan 2020-2021**

# Valley Heights Christian Academy 2020 Reentry Plan

Over the past few months, we have learned more than ever that we cannot count on tomorrow. We can make plans and anticipate what may come, but ultimately it is God who determines the steps of man. It is with that understanding in mind and a willingness to be flexible that we at VHCA have put together this plan to reenter our building for a safe and effective face-to-face education. Our school's Board of Education and staff will continue to monitor guidance from the CDC, our state, and public health officials and will adjust this plan accordingly.

We firmly believe that a student is best served academically, socially, and psychologically when and education is delivered in-person rather than virtually. Therefore, we plan to welcome back families of all K4 through 12<sup>th</sup> graders on **September 8<sup>th</sup>** for a meeting (details will be forthcoming), and we plan to welcome **ALL** students on **September 10<sup>th</sup>** for our first day of school.

## Important Dates



Family Meeting  
At 7:00 pm  
Details to follow



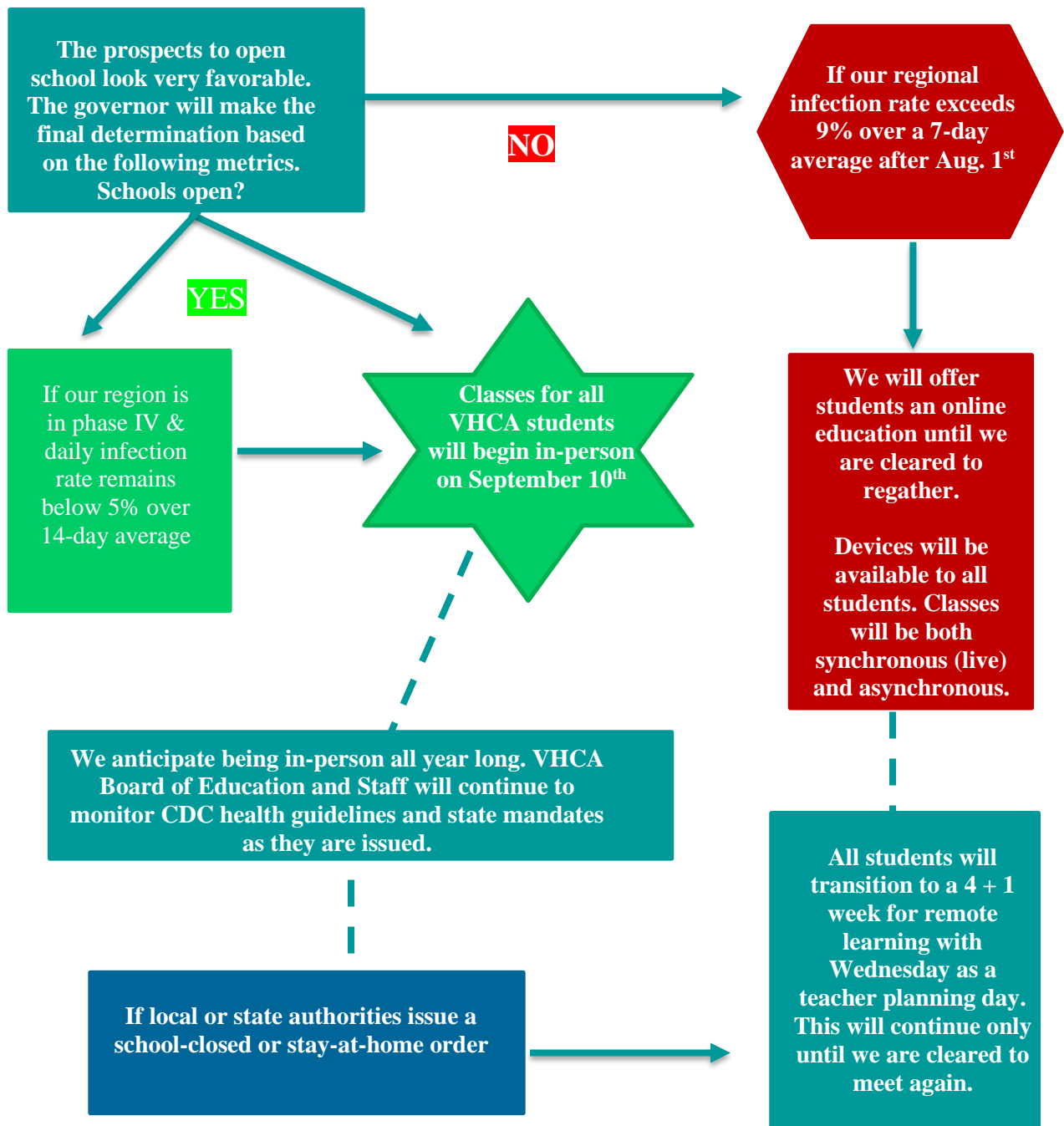
Opening Day  
All students report  
K4 – Grade 12

# reentry 2020

**NOTE:** This guide is intended as a living document and will be periodically updated in order to ensure the most current guidelines are in place.

## Reentry Approach

To properly safeguard our community during the resumption of on-campus learning, specific health precautions and safety procedures which are in accordance with health guidelines will be required. To meet the needs of our students and to the extent we are allowed by law, VHCA will plan for the reentry of students as follows:



## Physical Distancing

- Classroom seating will be reconfigured to maximize distancing
- All desks will face the same direction
- Larger meeting rooms (incl. the gym) used for larger groups
- The number of people in the restroom at one time will be limited
- Use of shared supplies will be minimized
  - Individual use of school supplies – pens, pencils, calculators, etc.
  - Art supplies will be individualized
- Lunches will be in the cafeteria, as normal,
  - Students will maintain physical distancing
- Cafeteria has been arranged to maximize physical distancing
  - Two lunch periods for more spacing
- Lockers: Locker use will be minimized and students will be assigned lockers 6-feet apart.
- Traffic flow will be managed
  - One-way traffic flow in certain, congested areas – i.e. specified down and up staircases for the lower level
  - Where two-way traffic is required, all will be asked to walk on the right side of the hallway
- Chapel seating arranged to ensure physical distancing
- To avoid crowding in changing rooms, students can wear their PE clothes to school on PE days as long as warm-up pants, sweatpants, etc., are worn over their shorts.

## School Events

- During the first semester, the following will be cancelled
  - Field trips
- No decisions have been made in regard to second-semester events

## Personal Hygiene



- Handwashing will be emphasized
- Students and staff will be encouraged to wash hands every two hours
- Hand sanitizer dispensers are available in common areas and throughout the building
- All classrooms will have hand sanitizers



- Per state guidance, all staff and students will need to wear a mask or face covering when physical distancing is not possible
- The mask or covering can be removed when physically distanced – i.e. when seated in the classroom if distance, when seated at lunch etc.
- Masks must be in place as students move about the room or in the halls
- We understand that prolonged use of a mask or covering can be difficult, and we will provide flexibility by meeting physical-distancing guidelines.
- If a student is without a mask, a disposable mask will be provided at no charge
- VHCA will foster a culture of acceptance about mask-wearing. Anyone who elects to wear a face mask more than is required will be allowed and encouraged to do so.



- Drinking fountains will be closed, initially
- Students are to bring a water bottle from home
- If a student should forget a water bottle, one will be provided.
- Cups will be provided by the office at no charge

## Cleaning



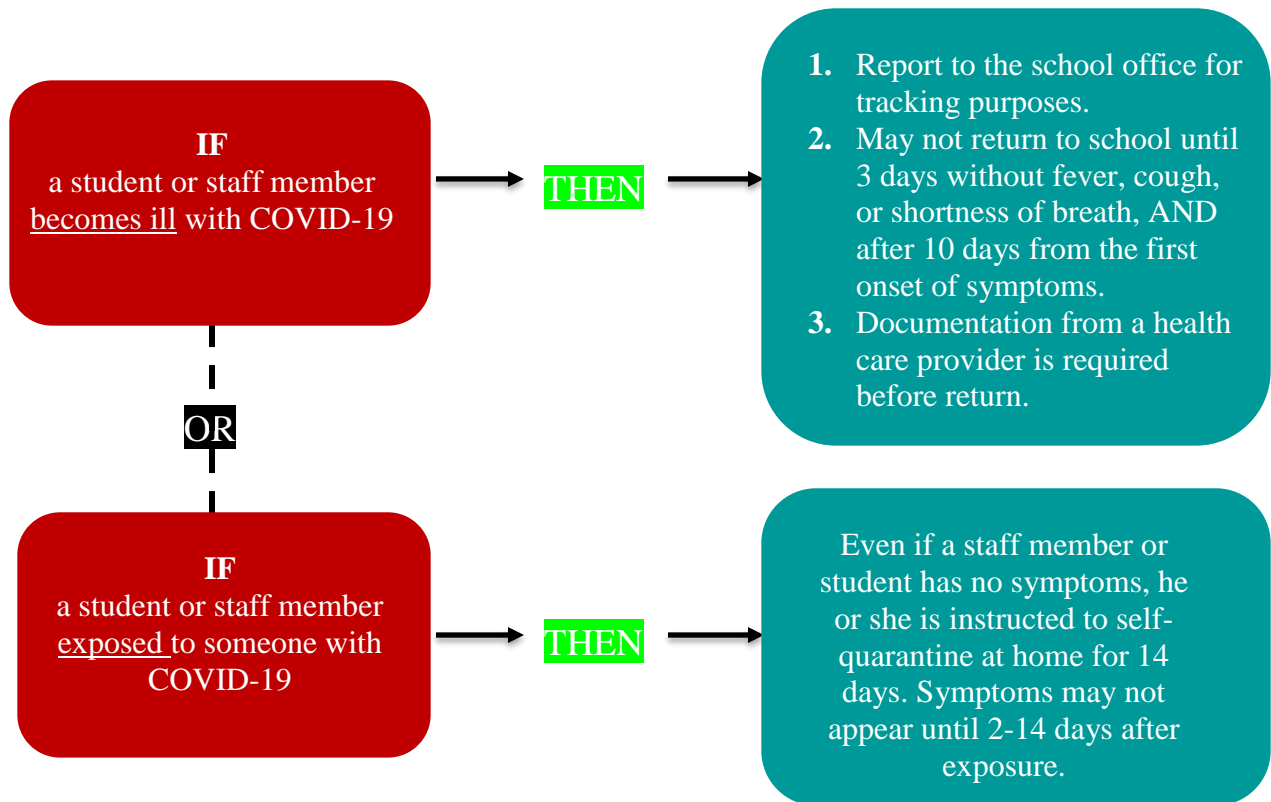
- Nightly cleaning and disinfecting of all areas by our staff and volunteers.
- Frequent cleaning of high touch areas every day throughout the day
- Supplies of disinfecting wipes distributed to all classrooms
- Lunchroom cleaned in between each lunch period
- Frequent disinfecting of PE and recess equipment

## Health Screening



- All staff, students, and visitors will have their temperatures taken before entering the building
- Anyone with a temperature over 100.0° F will be referred to the nurse's office
- Students will wait in room 107 for parent pick-up
- If possible, parents please check your student's temperature each day and keep the child at home if temperature is elevated over 100.0° F
- No perfect attendance awards will be given for the 2020-2021 school year
- School staff will monitor all students for COVID-19 symptoms daily
- Students should remain home when ill or if experiencing [COVID symptoms](#) (cough, fever, headache, new loss of smell/taste, fatigue, etc.)
- Fall flu shots for VHCA staff and students will be encouraged.

What if a VHCA staff member or student **becomes ill** with COVID-19 or **is exposed** to someone with COVID-19?



## Answers to Questions

**Will VHCA still provide a face-to-face education even if the local public school chooses something different?** Yes, we will continue with our plan regardless of what public schools choose to do. Our building and population allow us to meet health department guidance.

**But will busing still be provided if the public school follows a remote learning plan?** Yes, If the public school is in session, even remotely, they are required by state mandate to bus our students.

**How will drop-off/pick-up be different?** We continue to communicate and work with public school districts to ensure the transportation of our students to school. A detailed plan still needs to be completed by the various districts. We will communicate our full drop-off and pick-up plan when it is solidified.

**What circumstances/data would require our school to close?** We intend to keep our building open unless excessive absenteeism warrants closure or governmental authorities mandate school closure.

**What if my student becomes sick during the day?** If a student develops a fever or other symptoms of illness (whether COVID or otherwise), he/she would be brought to an isolation room to protect others. The parents/guardian will be contacted and are asked to pick up the student within a half hour.

**How will the school help manage anxiety about COVID?** The social/emotional well-being of our students is very important. Our teachers and staff will provide support to all our students as they provide Biblical counsel and maintain mentoring relationships.

**Will students still eat lunch together with their friends?** Yes, we will use our lunchroom for two different lunch periods (K4 – Grade 6, Grades 7 – 12). Students will eat and socialize with their peers while they are physically (not socially) distant.

**How will the school enforce physical distancing?** We will be spacing desks apart in classrooms to increase the distance between students. Specific scheduling and practices for movement in the hallways, seating during lunch, and the use of restrooms and locker areas will be reviewed with the students. Students will be regularly encouraged and reminded that a physical distance is an important aspect of reducing the transmission of harmful pathogens.

**Will my child be penalized if he/she is kept home at my discretion (i.e. if a child has a cold or some other minor illness, if the child has potentially been exposed to COVID in a non-school setting, if cases spike, etc.)?** An important component of limiting the impact of COVID-19 on our school community is parents' vigilance about their child's health. We want to affirm parental responsibility in monitoring a child's symptoms and overall health as well as parental discretion in keeping a child out of school on any given day because of suspected illness. Students at home will have access to flexible learning options, and are required to complete this work as long as they are able in the recuperation process.

**What will it look like for my child to participate in classes from home if he/she is absent?** We will provide flexible learning options so that students can continue their education during times when they may need to be home. With the help of internal and external resources, teachers will be trained this summer in the most effective way to deliver instruction remotely.

**What about the Christmas Program?** Music and the arts are an important part of a student's education. State guidance which mandates 12 feet of physical spacing while singing makes it very challenging to have a concert this fall. The Board of Education will decide at their October meeting whether we will have our Christmas program.

**Will students still meet for chapel?** Yes. We will have our chapel service in the gymnasium or cafeteria. There is plenty of room to meet requirements for physical distancing.

**What if I have more questions that are not answered here?** By all means, please contact the VHCA office or any Board of Education member. We are glad to provide you as many answers as we have. Of course, there may be things we cannot answer as the guidance from the state is either not yet prepared or is updated on a regular basis.

## How You Can Help



We ask that all families try to help VHCA's health and wellness protocols by keeping their children home:

- When they are not feeling well.
- When they have covid-like symptoms.
- When they have potentially been exposed.



In addition, we are asking families to perform daily temperature checks of their children before coming to school. If a student has a temperature of 100.0° F or higher, he or she should stay home.



All families are invited to a (zoom) school meeting in August, date to be determined, to ask questions and to learn more about VHCA's reentry plan. A zoom invite will be sent via email to all VHCA families. If there is further interest, additional school meetings will be scheduled later in August,

**We look forward to seeing you and being back with our students.**

**God bless you and your family!**