



VALWOOD SCHOOL

Guidance & Planning for 2022-2023

Updated August 1, 2022

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Valwood's primary goal has been, and will continue to be, operating safely and providing a healthy and positive learning environment for our students and teachers. A tremendous strength of Valwood School is our varying viewpoints and diversity of opinions on a variety of topics. It is in consideration of our family's differing perspectives, varying levels of comfort, and the ever-changing variants of the coronavirus that Valwood School updated our COVID policy to reflect the individual medical expertise of your family's local and trusted physician. Valwood School recognizes that families must make important decisions for their own health and welfare.

OVERALL GUIDANCE FOR OUR CAMPUS:



Our campus is mask-optional, for ALL students and faculty/staff members. We will support any members of our community who wish to wear masks.



We will continue utilizing the Four Phase Plan (outlined below) and our transparency of COVID-19 positive cases within the school via [Color Phase Chart](#) available through your FACTS Family account.

THE INDIVIDUAL



At-Home Learning Option

All students will be expected to be on-campus and in-person for the 2022-23 school year, unless formally approved by the school and documented by a medical professional for valid health concerns. Given the burdens of teaching at-home learners and in-person learners, we will not offer at-home learning options for convenience (i.e., for a doctor's appointment or illness), reserving at-home learning only for those who are formally quarantined, out for an extended health-related reason, or who have gained approval during the ORANGE status in Valwood's Color Phase Chart. If this is a necessity for your family, please contact [Jessica Warren](#), Director of Technology, as soon as possible. Once at-home learning is approved and implemented, remote students will be able to join live instruction via Google Meet and participate in class. If a student wishes to resume in-person classes, parents are asked to contact the division dean to establish plans and a timeline for return.



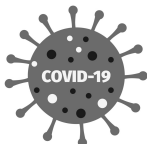
Mental Health & Social Emotional Learning

We have professional counselors available to help students and families who may be struggling or need extra support. This is and will continue to be a priority for our school community.



Illness

If a student or faculty/staff member is not feeling well, they should remain at home until they are feeling better. If you are experiencing [symptoms related to COVID-19](#), please stay home. Students and faculty/staff members should be free of symptoms for at least 24 hours (without medication) before returning to school.



COVID Positive

If a student or faculty/staff member tests positive for COVID, please complete this [COVID positive form](#) and **notify close contacts of potential exposure**. According to the CDC, individuals positive for COVID-19 must stay home and isolate themselves from other people for at least 5 full days (day 0 is the first day of symptoms or the date of the day of the positive viral test for asymptomatic persons). You should continue to wear a well-fitting N95 or KN95 mask around others at home and in public for 5 additional days (day 6 through day 10) after the end of your 5-day isolation period. If you continue to have fever or your other symptoms have not improved after 5 days of isolation, you should wait to end your isolation until you are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and your other symptoms have improved. Valwood will adhere to your doctor's recommendation if it differs from the CDC guidelines listed above. In that event, Valwood asks that you provide a doctor's note with dates.



Exposure to COVID

If a student or faculty/staff member is exposed to COVID, Valwood encourages you to consult the current CDC guidelines, your doctor, or use your best discretion regarding mask use and/or quarantine.

THE SCHOOL DAY & AFTER SCHOOL



Lunch/Snacks

Valwood School will continue to serve break snacks and lunch in the Dining Hall provided by PEPI Foods. Students may continue to provide their own snacks, and they are able to bring lunch from home. Tables and seats will be wiped down after each lunch period. In the event that a student is on campus during days 6 - 10 (after testing positive), the students will be seated separately away from their peers.



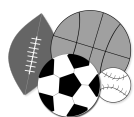
Field Trips

Valwood School is planning to continue field trips (throughout the school year) and class trips. Detailed information will follow.



Extended Day

Valwood School will continue Extended Day services. Please see the [school website](#) for details on registration, hours, and cost.



Extra-curriculars & Athletics

Extra-curricular and athletic practices and competitions will continue or resume as normal. The school will continue to follow guidelines from GISA and GIAA. Information on specific clubs, activities, or sports will be available from faculty advisors or coaches. *Extracurriculars and athletics will follow the above listed guidelines for COVID-19 positive individuals.*

THE CAMPUS



Cleaning & Sanitation Practices

Enhanced sanitizing and cleaning processes will continue from the 2022-2023 academic year. Every classroom and well trafficked positions in all buildings have been outfitted with hand-sanitizing stations. Teachers have been provided materials to disinfect surfaces in classrooms.



Filtered Air Systems

Filtered air systems have been added to all classrooms across campus in order to improve air quality and purification.



Visitors

Visitors are welcome on campus. Please remember to check in with the appropriate division office or in the main reception area in Crane Hall.



Closure Scenarios

Valwood School will continue to utilize data and guidance of healthcare professionals to determine safe practices for remaining open. If transmission rates begin to rise significantly (in accordance with the Four Phase Plan below), or if another contagious illness like the flu is spreading in the community, we will make decisions accordingly regarding quarantine and/or closure of certain grades or divisions.



Remote Learning

In the case of an emergency or a dramatic shift in the COVID transmission rate, Valwood School is prepared for a transition to Remote Learning. Through Remote Learning, students will follow a developmentally-appropriate schedule and will interact with teachers and classmates through a mix of live and recorded content. We will continue to instill in our students an enthusiasm for academic excellence, the foundations of strong character, and a commitment to serve others.

THE VACCINE



We are not mandating vaccines, but we are strongly encouraging anyone eligible to please get vaccinated for their safety and for the community. In short, the more vaccinated members of our community the better for everyone. We will also encourage staff and families to strongly consider getting a flu vaccine for the upcoming flu season.

VALWOOD SCHOOL'S FOUR-PHASE PLAN

0%	<15%	15-25%	>25%
GREEN LOW RISK -Zero confirmed cases	YELLOW MODERATE RISK -Confirmed Cases are limited to less than 15% of group's population	ORANGE MEDIUM RISK -Confirmed Cases are 15-25% of the group's population -Approval required for remote learning	RED HIGH RISK -Confirmed Cases are greater than 25% of group's population -Closure for specific classes, specific divisions, specific teams, or campus -All instruction through Remote learning Platform
All students on campus daily with classes limited by occupancy established for social distancing.	Hybrid Learning Platform active for affected or exposed students		

RESOURCES

Registrar - Val Gallaha: vgallahan@valwood.org

Director of Technology - Jessica Warren: jwarren@valwood.org

[Color Phase Chart](#)

Reporting:

- [COVID positive form](#)

These guidelines are posted on our website, [here](#). Please consider this plan as an addendum to our Student & Family Handbook for the 2022-23 school year.

This is an organic document, and we will notify our school community as temporary or permanent modifications are made to daily protocols.