



VALLEY PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Limitless Learning.

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July 15, 2021

Dear Valley Park Families:

We hope you are continuing to have a great summer! We know students benefit most from in-person learning, and we want you to know that supporting a safe continuation of in-person learning during the 2021-2022 school year remains our top priority. We are excited to welcome students back to school on **August 24, 2021** and remain committed to offering in-person instruction 5 days a week in accordance with [our district calendar](#).

Like many of you, we continue to watch and learn about the patterns, trends, and variants of COVID-19 in our county, state, and nation. We are also in the process of reviewing the [Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#) released from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) on July 9th.

In addition to the new CDC guidance, we also anticipate that the St. Louis County Department of Health professionals will update their guidance for schools in the next couple of weeks. We anticipate releasing our VP Return to Learn Plan for the 21-22 school year the first Friday in August based on the recommendations and guidance of the CDC and St. Louis County Department of Health. Our protocols will continue to prioritize the health and wellness of our students and staff and align with the guidelines and recommendations of the health professionals.

Until that time, health professionals support that vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, students who are vaccinated protect themselves from the risk of missing school and activities. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines state that if your student is fully vaccinated, they will not be required to quarantine if they are exposed to someone who tests positive for the virus, as long as they are not showing any symptoms.

Students aged 12 and older who wish to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 by the first day of school, which is Tuesday, August 24th, must get their first dose of the vaccine no later than July 20. This is based on the Pfizer vaccine's two-dose dosing schedule.

FAMILY WEBINAR: NAVIGATING COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

To help answer your questions about children and the COVID-19 vaccine, two pediatric infectious disease specialists with St. Louis Children's Hospital, Dr. Rachel Orscheln and Dr. Jason Newland, are hosting a live webinar at 7 p.m. tonight (July 15th) on Facebook. During the webinar, Dr. Orscheln and Dr. Newland will answer questions about how families can navigate the return to school.

- [WATCH: BACK TO SCHOOL: HELPING PARENTS NAVIGATE COVID-19 VACCINATIONS](#)

ST. LOUIS COUNTY IMMUNIZATIONS FOR CHILDREN

In addition, St. Louis County Department of Public Health is offering an extensive back-to-school immunization and vaccination effort for COVID-19 and routine immunizations. Beginning on **Monday, July 19th**, the health department will offer **no-cost immunizations for children aged 3 to 18**, and **free COVID-19 vaccinations for ages 12 and up**. The effort will continue from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., **Monday-Friday until September 17th** at three locations. Students should bring a copy of their shot records.

- South County Health Center, 4580 S. Lindbergh Blvd. in Sunset Hills
 - Additional opportunities will be available from 4-7 p.m. on Wednesday evenings at South County Health Center
- John C. Murphy Health Center, 6121 North Hanley Road in Berkeley
- North Central Community Health Center, 4000 Jennings Station Road, in Pine Lawn

We appreciate your support and partnership as we work to keep our entire Valley Park community healthy and safe.

Sincerely,

Superintendent