

VVDCS HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY (REVISED. 05/01/2023)

Introduction

Victor Valley Desert Christian School (VVDCS) shall strive to protect the safety and health of students in our school/support group as well as their families, and our staff. This health and safety policy has been developed from the guidelines recommended by the Center for Disease Control, the National Association of State Boards of Education, the California Department of Health, and the California State Board of Education.

Privacy

Pupils and staff members are not required to disclose personal health information to anyone. If information or speculation about an individual student's or staff member's health is shared with the administrators for the purpose of assessing potential special needs or enforcing school a policy, such information is treated as highly confidential. Access to student health records and related information is available only to the administrators and to the student or, if the student is a minor, to his parent or guardian, except as required by law (HIPPA, etc).

Education

With the goals of healthful living and avoiding risks of injury, illness, and disease, VVDCS will make this health and safety policy available on an annual basis and will require, as a condition of enrollment, that every parent sign a notice of receipt and agreement to follow these policies at all school activities.

Enrollment Non-Discrimination

No student will be denied enrollment in VVDCS based solely upon the presence of an injury, disability, illness, or disease. However, under certain conditions (explained below under "exposure control") a student may be excluded from participation in group activities.

School Entry Health Exam

Parents of incoming first graders are required by law to submit a school entry health exam report from their physician, or to sign a waiver of the exam. This report is kept on file with the student's permanent record.

Immunizations

VVDCS complies to record that, in accordance with state law, every student be fully immunized for the following diseases, unless a waiver based upon personal beliefs been signed by the student's parent or guardian, or a waiver based upon medical reasons has been signed by the student's physician: 1) diphtheria; 2) haemophilus influenzae type b, except for children who have reached the age of four years and six months; 3) measles; 4) mumps, except for children who have reached the age of seven years; 5) pertussis (whooping cough), except for children who have reached the age of seven years; 6) poliomyelitis; 7) rubella; 8) tetanus; 9) hepatitis B, for all children [entering school] on or after August 1, 1997; 10) varicella (chickenpox), effective July 1, 2001, except for students already enrolled in kindergarten or above before July 1, 2001.

Parents of all students must present a written immunization record or signed waiver to be kept on file by the school within 10 days of enrollment. As a non-campus private school, vaccinations are not required by law for enrollment in VVDCS.

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Exposure Control

Because of the family nature of the program offered by VVDCS, policies and procedures adopted in institutionalized school settings may not offer the level of safety necessary to reasonably prevent health hazards. While no one can guarantee that no injury will ever occur nor illness or disease be contracted, the following policies are adopted for the health and safety of all students and their families.

1. Injury Prevention and Response

We recommend the following guidelines, adapted from the Center for Disease Control guidelines and for our unique educational setting that:

- A)** all parents and students in grade nine and above take the Basic First Aid and CPR course offered by the Red Cross.
- B)** if an injury to a child occurs, the parent of the injured child should be the person to give first aid or other treatments.
- C)** Universal Precautions be followed when blood or bodily fluids are present, including the use of latex gloves by those treating the injured or ill person and by those cleaning up.
- D)** all parents have and maintain their own simple first aid kit, including latex gloves, bandages, Band-Aids, and antibacterial cleaning solution. Such a kit can be kept easily in a purse or car to have available in an emergency.

2. Presence of a Contagious Illness or Disease

Students and family members may not participate in group activities sponsored by VVDCS unless they are free from contagious illness. If you are ill, please stay home to avoid exposing others. If an attendee at an event manifests symptoms of any potentially contagious disorder (i.e. fever, severe coughing or sneezing, evidence of lice infestation, oozing open wounds, sores or rashes, etc.) or any other condition which reasonably causes health concerns among staff or parents present, that person will be asked to leave and may be excluded from attending VVDCS functions until he has demonstrated that the condition has abated or the contagious period has ended.

3. Notification of Exposure to Communicable Disease

Whenever the administrators have good cause to believe that a student may have been exposed to a disease, that information shall be reported by the administrators to the student's parent. In conjunction with the recommendation of the local health officer related to the pupil's risk of developing the disease, the administrators may require the exclusion of the student from school activities until the completion of the incubation period and the period of communicability of the disease.

3A. COVID-19 Pandemic Addendum

VVDCS is doing everything we can to reduce the risks of exposure to you and to organization and its partners. To this extent, we will consider the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and local health department guidelines with regard to practices in order to reduce the spread of Novel Coronavirus, or COVID-19. This will require our staff and visitors to attempt social distancing between ourselves as much as possible. We will NOT require all individuals to utilize a face covering. Everyone must agree to reduce the spread of germs by agreeing to wash or sanitize their hands after using the restroom, sneezing, coughing, and before eating or preparing meals or supplies for distribution and use disposable gloves where necessary. VVDCS will also implement higher cleaning standards of our restrooms and working areas before and after meetings and as much as possible. If you're sick, or think you or your children have been exposed, stay home until you're sure that you're not contagious. Thank you.

4. Ongoing Medical Conditions

If a student or family member has continuing special medical needs, VVDCS will make a reasonable effort to accommodate those needs. However, all accommodations will be considered by balancing the special need of the individual with the general needs of the group. If you are unsure whether a particular activity can accommodate specialized equipment or other needs, please ask before attending.

5. Administration of Medicine or Procedures

No one other than the parent or guardian of a student may administer medication or other medical procedures to that student (i.e. asthma inhalants, insulin shots, aspirin, etc.)

6. Parental Supervision

We require that a parent or guardian attend all events at which their child is present. In the case of an illness or condition which presents any special considerations in the event of a health emergency (i.e., diabetes, epilepsy, HIV, etc.) we require that the parent or guardian remain in close enough proximity to the student that should there be a medical emergency, the parent can reasonably be the first to respond and administer proper procedures for both the safety of the affected student and others.

7. Anti-Molestation and Abuse Clause

We require that any person, adult, child, or volunteer disclose to the school any information about alleged or convicted abuse cases they may have been involved in. This includes anyone listed as a registered sex offender. Because of this concern, no adult should be left alone with a child without the parent's advance permission.

8. Exclusion from Activities

No student or family member will be permanently excluded from activities hosted by VVDCS based solely on the existence of a medical condition. If the particular condition creates a risk to others or is a need which we cannot accommodate without unreasonably sacrificing the benefits of the activity or the needs of others, the administrators will meet with the parent to attempt to resolve the issue consulting with local health officials or obtaining other medical advice if necessary to assist in determining appropriate action. In such cases, the decision of the administrators will be final.

Conciliation

The parties to this agreement are Christians and believe that the Bible commands them to make every effort to live at peace and to resolve disputes with each other in private or within the Christian church (see Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 6:1-8). Therefore, the parties agree that any claim or dispute arising from or related to this agreement shall be settled by biblically-based mediation and, if necessary, legally binding arbitration in accordance with the *Rules of Procedure for Christian Conciliation* of the Institute for Christian Conciliation, a division of Peacemaker® Ministries (complete text of the Rules is available at www.HisPeace.org). Judgment upon an arbitration decision may be entered in any court otherwise having jurisdiction. The parties understand that these methods shall be the sole remedy for any controversy or claim arising out of this agreement and expressly waive their right to file a lawsuit in any civil court against one another for such disputes, except to enforce an arbitration decision.

By signing below, you agree to comply with the written instructions above. Failure to comply with these written instructions or verbal instructions from staff or volunteers may result in your removal from the premises and possible expulsion from VVDCS.

Print Name: _____

Sign: _____ **Date:** _____