Tips for a Safe and Healthy
Summer Break

As we approach the summer of 2021, the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) and Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) remind you that COVID-19 never takes a break! *If you're not fully-vaccinated,* please continue to wear masks and social distance, as recommended by health officials. Avoid crowds, and use proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette throughout the summer.

The COVID-19 vaccine is currently authorized for children 12 and older. Visit https://www.vdh. virginia.gov/covid-19-vaccine/ to learn more information about getting your child vaccinated. The vaccine is an important way to prevent your child from getting COVID-19 and spreading it. Once you are fully-vaccinated, you do not have to:

- Wear a mask or socially distance
- Follow isolation/quarantine guidance if you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19. This means that your child wouldn't have to miss school, athletic practices, games, or other social activities or family gatherings.

Your child may need additional vaccines to start the new school year. State law is changing this summer and students enrolled in school for the 2021-2022 school year will need to be up to date on their school-required immunizations. Visit https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/immunization/requirements/ for more information.

Table 1: 2021 Immunization Updates, PreK through 12

PRE-K	KG	7TH GRADE	12TH GRADE
• Hepatitis A • Hib • Pneumococcal • Rotavirus	• Hepatitis A	• Tdap booster • HPV (males and females) • Meningococcal - MenACWY	• Meningococcal - MenACWY

All school divisions will offer in-person instruction this fall, and some will offer virtual options. VDH and your school division are working together to help keep schools safe next year with:

- **Vaccination:** VDH and VDOE are working together to help anyone who is eligible to get a COVID-19 vaccination and ensure parents are aware of required immunizations.
- **Testing:** Testing for COVID-19 remains a critical prevention strategy. Screening testing, which is testing people who do not have symptoms of COVID-19 or a known exposure, is an important strategy to identify asymptomatic COVID-19 cases within the community. VDH and VDOE are working together to provide support to school divisions who choose to implement voluntary testing programs in schools in the fall. For more information and to stay up to date on these developing plans, please visit https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/k-12-testing/. Anyone experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 should stay home and work with their primary care provider to get tested for COVID-19.
- **Contact tracing:** Local health departments are hiring additional staff dedicated to case investigation and contact tracing to help identify who might have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 and make sure they don't spread it to other people. They also help people who are isolating due to the virus get the provisions they need.

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