



Vernon Elementary School District #9

P.O. Box 89 – 90 CRN 3139 – Vernon, AZ 85940 – ☎ (928) 537-5463 – Fax (928) 537-1820
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August 5, 2020

Dear parents and guardians:

The safety and health of your child at school is our top priority.

COVID-19 (also commonly known as coronavirus) is the worst threat to public health in the past 100 years. It is highly contagious and continues to spread quickly in Arizona. Unfortunately, we've seen that even when strict precautions are in place, some people still get sick.

Our job is to work with you to help keep children and their educators healthy. We also want you to clearly understand the risks and what we're doing about them, so you can make the best decision for your family.

Attached to this letter is a legal document called a waiver. Like many legal papers, it can be hard to understand and even a little worrisome. Below I will explain the waiver and how it affects you.

Although Vernon Elementary School District is taking many steps to protect your child from the spread of COVID-19, it is impossible to reduce the risk to zero. As an example, a child may contract COVID-19 outside of school, show no symptoms at all, and unintentionally infect a classmate.

By signing the waiver, you're agreeing not to make a legal claim against the district if your child gets sick. It's another way of acknowledging that no matter how hard we try, we cannot control every environmental variable.

By signing the waiver, you're also agreeing that when your child leaves home to attend class in-person, they are not sick, and especially, that they are not running a fever. You are agreeing, too, to keep your child at home if they show any of these symptoms:

- Fever of 100.4°F or higher
- Chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat

- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- Any other symptom of illness, whether or not you believe it's related to COVID-19

Yes, it's a long list of symptoms, but our hope is that, if everyone does their part, we can avoid unnecessary risks at school.

Finally, the waiver means that you are agreeing to keep your child at home if they have had a positive COVID-19 test.

We know this is a difficult time, so we're working hard to make many educational options available to you and keep you fully informed. In that spirit, if you have questions or need more information, feel free to contact me anytime. I'd be happy to talk things through with you.

Thank you in advance for doing your part to make sure every child stays safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Dr. Monica Barajas