

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

2021-2022 COVID-19 Mitigation Plan



1. **Masks**

The district highly recommends all students and staff to wear a mask while indoors. The district will follow local and state health authority mandates regarding face coverings. All visitors and volunteers must wear a face covering when indoors during the academic school day. When the exposure risk increases, and other engineering controls are inadequate, masks are available and provided to minimize transmission exposure. Signs identifying CDC recommendations for vaccinated and non-vaccinated individuals are posted.

Universal Masking guidelines for schools when mandated by District

Indoor PE: Masks required, physical distance as much as possible, non-rigorous activity. Outdoor PE: Highly recommended as the primary choice, masks are strongly encouraged, but not required, physical distance as much as possible, rigorous activity, Recess (Outdoor) No mask

2. **Symptom Free Protocol**

The purpose of this protocol is to provide a learning environment that promotes the safety, health and welfare of our communities. This applies to students, staff, parents and guardians, volunteers, and any school visitors. A person should stay home if exhibiting any of the following: any signs or symptoms of illness, taking the first 24 hours of antibiotic treatment, and/or have an undiagnosed, new and/or, untreated rash or skin condition. People entering KPBSD schools are asked to screen themselves and their children before entering any facility. [KPBSD Symptom Free Protocol](#)

3. **Physical distancing** (e.g., including use of cohorts/pods)

Physical distancing of 6 feet will be encouraged while working and learning with others in the building. KPBSD has maximized the available space to allow for maximum distancing to minimize potential exposure.

4. **Handwashing and respiratory etiquette**

Proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette signs have been posted, taught and modeled for our students and staff.

5. **Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation**

KPBSD facilities have had bipolar ionization systems installed, and the custodial staff have been equipped with HOCL and electrostatic sprayers to improve the efficiency of building sanitization.

6. **Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments**

KPBSD schools do not conduct contact tracing for facilities operating with KPBSD COVID Universal Masking. KPBSD staff and students may choose to follow [KPBSD Close Contact Monitor Test and Stay](#) protocols if they are asymptomatic close contacts. KPBSD staff and students may choose to follow [KPBSD Monitor, Mask and Return](#) protocols where applicable. The KPBSD Health Services Coordinator will continue to monitor daily COVID percentages, attend local and state health updates and provide professional development and training to site based and itinerant nurses as necessary. [Link to Close Contact Guidelines](#)

7. **Diagnostic and screening testing**

KPBSD has provided testing capability and training for every school in the district. COVID-19 Antigen

and Molecular screening is at all schools sites, and free for KPBSD staff and students with published community partners. School Nurses can assist staff and families with the appropriate testing option, result interpretation, and next steps.

8. Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible

The KPBSD has partnered with local health entities to provide vaccine clinics in KPBSD site facilities and has provided information to staff, students, and parents about the clinics and locally available vaccines.

[Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Vaccination webpage](#)

9. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies

A variety of options are available to accommodate children with disabilities. The accommodations can be but not limited to providing additional engineering controls including additional social distancing space, barriers and personal protective equipment.

10. Sports and Activities

Daily symptom check for athletes and coaches, testing will depend on travel destination, COVID Return to Play, Before or After Activity Best Practices, volunteer screening. For the health and safety of student athletes and coaches a 12-footbuffering zone from spectators will be in place. Best practice is to place athletic teams on one side of the gym and spectators on the opposite side as gym space allows.

11. Transportation

Per the US DOT mandate for public transportation, face coverings are required for all bus passengers travelling to and from school and for all co-curricular activities.

KPBSD COVID Universal Masking in a school (4/5 of these metrics will trigger a conversation with the site admin)

- School Community Positivity 3%
- Student Absenteeism 25%
- Local and Regional Hospital/ICU Capacity
- Community Red Risk Level (# cases per 100K)
- High Staff Absenteeism Rate and Impact

Other factors to consider:

- Bus Routes
- Spreader Events
- Site ability to physical distance

The dashboard represents positive COVID-19 cases through a test at a school or self-reporting, and may not reflect the actual date a student or staff tested positive. Positive COVID-19 cases are reported on the date when a school is made aware of the positive case, and this reporting is in alignment with the way the state shares data. Because there can be day-to-day variation in the Monday through Friday dashboard updates, it is important to look at weekly 7-Day trends.

Decision by District Leadership Team to require or not require Universal Mask at School Site.

Continuation or removal of a two-week mask requirement:

- District looks at data on day 6-7-8-9 of original 2-week mask requirement
- School Community Positivity 1% or less

- Student Absenteeism 25% (i.e. # of students close contact)
- Local and Regional Hospital/ICU Capacity
- Community Spread Red Risk Level (# cases per 100k)
- High Staff Absenteeism Rate and Impact

Process to determine if required masking should continue:

- Administration continues to monitor data if numbers are high or approaching high
- District Office Admin starts conversation
- Decision is made to continue or remove 2-week mandate
- Review school data on Day 6-9 of 2 week mask mandate
- District Office admin and principal monitor, discuss data (looking at trends)
- Day 9 tentative decision is made with a final check-in with school admin on Day 10 to verify no new information is present
- Communication process is initiated with school stakeholders

KPBSD Mitigation Plan Updates 9/13/2021

Student Support Services

Housekeeping/Reminders sent to School Administrators emailed August 11, 2021

- During lunch time, please ensure you have a plan in place that will keep the students from being directly next to each other in the lunchroom. Keeping the spacing during this time will be one of the ways we are ensuring the community that we are being safe.
- While there are transitions in the hallways, please have staff members visible

KPBSD COVID Positive Student/Staff Principal Checklist emailed to principals August 17, 2021

Antigen Screening or Student Athletes Discontinued August 18, 2021

Email sent to School Administrators and Athletic Directors

- In response to the limited and dwindling supply of antigen screening kits, it has been determined to cease the weekly antigen screening for student athletes. Testing will occur only when deemed necessary for student destination travel, staff travel and contact identification purposes.
- It has been verified Anchorage School District, Fairbanks NorthStar Borough School District and the Mat-Susitna Borough School District are following similar protocols.

Director Correspondence Email to School Administrators August 23, 2021

- Classroom teachers groups students in pods. These pods are now the classes' 'close contact groups.'
- This list is shared with teachers who have the classes for specials i.e. music, PE, art, Speech, pull outs, etc. The specialist will try to have fidelity to these 'close contact groups' within their rooms.
- While we still try to keep as much distance between individual students, we put the focus on keeping the 'close contact groups' more socially distanced and helping to move the herd along.

Student Support Services

Email sent to KPBSD School Administrators and Special Education Staff August 24, 2021

Itinerant staff (more than one school and therefore travel to multiple school sites), below is some guidance: at all sites you are working in. • If you are at a school site other than your "home" school, you are considered a visitor and should wear a mask. Please continue to follow the Mitigation Plan 21-22

- Before traveling to the school, visit the district's website and check the School Operational Status so you can get up-to-date information if something has changed regarding mitigation adjustments or onsite learning. This information is on the COVID-19 Hub under the KPBSD risk levels <https://covid19.kpbsd.org/dashboard>
- If you are a staff who travels across the water to schools, reach out to the school administrator first, then Jacynne Best in Planning & Operations (714-8821) to get the most up-to-date information on village travel as well as arrangements for a COVID-19 test before traveling, which is a current village requirement.

Planning and Operations- Apple Bus Drivers August 25, 2021

Email sent to KPBSD School Administrators

- Direction to our Drivers is: Drivers wear a mask at the schools while loading and unloading students. If the driver is walking up and down the aisle at the schools they need to have a mask on as well. Once the driver is in the driver's seat and ready to drive they may remove the mask if it imposes a safety hazard such as fogged glasses or breathing issues that interfere with the safe operation of the bus. The front seats need to be empty (2 behind driver, 1 on the other side) Attendants and Monitors should have masks as they are in the passenger compartment with the students.
- CDC Guidelines as updated August 20, 2021:
- The following categories of people continue to be exempt from the requirement to wear a mask:
- A person for whom wearing a mask would create a risk to workplace health, safety, or job duty as determined by the relevant workplace safety guidelines or federal regulations.
- Masks are required by regulation and prevent close contacts on the bus (resulting in students missing school), as the student passes by the driver in seconds and is nowhere close to the 15 minute close contact time period to make a close contact. Unfortunately drivers in the Mat-Su have been identified as close contacts and the district is having to shut down routes, in contrast KPBSD provides a buffer zone (two empty seats behind the driver and one on the opposite side) to prevent the driver being identified as a close contact. Drivers may and are encouraged to wear a mask, if it does not impose a safety hazard such as fogged glasses or breathing issues that interfere with the safe operation of the bus.

Planning and Operations- Student Nutrition Services August 25, 2021

Email sent to KPBSD School Administrators/SNS

All Student Nutrition staff while in the presence of students, or in the kitchen area when distancing is not achievable to wear a mask. This is important while serving and cashiering especially when physical distancing cannot be maintained. All student workers should wear a mask while in the kitchen or in the presence of Student Nutrition staff.

Student Support Email/Correspondence to IN Staff August 27, 2021-

Due to the nature of the work performed in certain special education classrooms where close proximity to staff and students occur on a regular basis (e.g. IN classrooms, Sped Pre-K, etc.), any special education staff that is unable to maintain 6ft of social distancing to another person (another adult or student) to wear face coverings indoors while at work starting August 27, 2021.

KPBSD strongly ask all special education staff to wear face coverings at work while performing your work duties if you are not able to maintain 6 feet of physical distancing, as an additional layer of precaution