



**Southeast Island School District**  
**American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act**  
**Mitigation and Prevention Plan**

**BACK TO SCHOOL PLAN 2021-22**

**Option CDC**

**Revised August 21, 2021**



## Mitigation Plan

### Plan Components

Per Alaska Department of Education and Early Development: "Districts must implement, to the greatest extent practicable, prevention and mitigation policies inline with the most up-to-date guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and testing."

Per CDC: "Given new evidence on the B.1.617.2 (Delta) variant, CDC has updated the [guidance for fully vaccinated people](#). CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status. Children should return to full-time in-person learning in the fall with layered prevention strategies in place.

CDC Update: Due to the circulating and highly contagious Delta variant, CDC recommends universal indoor masking by all students (age 2 and older), staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.

In addition to universal indoor masking, CDC recommends schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms to reduce transmission risk. When it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least 3 feet, such as when schools cannot fully re-open while maintaining these distances, it is especially important to layer multiple other prevention strategies, such as screening testing."

#### 1. [Masks and Physical Distancing \(e.g., including use of cohorts/pods\)](#)

Masks will be **required** in all SISD schools during passing periods and when students are accessing lockers.

Masks will be **required** in all SISD hallways when students arrive at school in the morning and are exiting the building after school.

**Consistent and Correct Mask Usage:** When teachers, staff, and students consistently and correctly wear a mask, they [protect others as well as themselves](#). Consistent and [correct mask use](#) is especially important indoors and in crowded settings, when physical distancing cannot be maintained.

- **Indoors:** CDC recommends indoor masking for all individuals age 2 years and older, including students, teachers, staff, and visitors, regardless of vaccination status.
- **Outdoors:** In general, people do not need to wear masks when outdoors. CDC recommends that people who are not fully vaccinated wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people. Fully vaccinated people might choose to wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings if they or someone in their household is immunocompromised.

Exceptions can be made for the following categories of people:

# American Rescue Plan Act Mitigation and Prevention Plan



- A person who cannot wear a mask, or cannot safely wear a mask, because of a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.). Discuss the possibility of reasonable accommodation external icon with workers who are unable to wear or have difficulty wearing certain types of masks because of a disability.
- 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.

Per CDC Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools Through Phased Prevention Updated March 19, 2021, nonessential visitors and volunteers shall be limited. Visitors and volunteers will be permitted upon approval, on a case-by-case basis, when the use of volunteers is essential for the safety and supervision of students (i.e. outdoor field trips). All visitors and volunteers will be temperature screened and are required to wear masks when working directly with staff and students and six feet social distancing cannot be maintained.

Field trip/activity locations are allowed if the activity is outside and students with staff can either walk to the location with appropriate social distancing, or if using district vehicles students will be required to wear masks when appropriate social distancing cannot be adhered to.

## 2. Increased Level of Community Transition, Masks Required and Use of Pods to Continue In-Person Instruction

If the district's Medical Advisory Committee recommends that one or more of SISD's schools move to a more restricted level of safety due to an increased level of community transition and/or other factors affecting one of our school communities, SISD will put in place more restrictive safety measures. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) masks will be required by staff and students when working directly with each other. In this scenario, individual schools in the district may also develop pods within their student population and students/staff will not be able to interact with students/staff in other pods. Flexibility and evidence-based decision making will guide SISD's decisions to shift between in-person with masks required and distance delivery.

SISD will closely monitor SE regional trends with COVID-19 infections to include Juneau, Sitka, Ketchikan, Anchorage and Seattle. If regional trends shift rapidly, SISD will utilize this information to consider transitioning to a higher risk scenario to protect our students, families, and staff members.

If there are active COVID-19 cases in an SISD school community, or another island community, that could directly impact SISD families, SISD reserves the right to temporarily transition to a Red/High Risk scenario for deep cleaning of SISD buildings and while Public Health completes contact tracing and quarantining of those who could directly impact SISD. Once contact tracing is complete SISD shall consult with Public Health and the district's Medical Advisory Committee to determine the district's risk level.

SISD will provide bus service during Yellow/Low-Medium Risk scenarios. SISD will provide service to south side of Thorne Bay, Hollis, Klawock and Craig. CDC's Order applies to all public transportation conveyances including school buses. Passengers and drivers must wear a mask on school buses, including on buses operated by public and private school systems, regardless of vaccination status. SISD students and bus drivers are required to wear masks at all times when boarding, exiting, and riding on the bus. During Red/High Risk scenarios when the district has moved to a distance instructional model bus service will be

# American Rescue Plan Act Mitigation and Prevention Plan



cancelled.

Schools will provide masks to those students who need them (including on buses), such as students who forgot to bring their mask or whose families are unable to afford them

AK-TRAILS Statewide Homeschool office's (Thorne Bay, Naukati, Coffman Cove and Port Alexander) will follow all guidelines and mandates for the municipality the office is located. Furthermore, AK- TRAILS offices will institute the State of Alaska Phase 3 and 4 COVID-19 guidelines located at <https://covid19.alaska.gov/reopen/>, specifically guidelines for Attachment D "Public Facing Businesses" to include:

- Social distancing
- Hygiene best practices
- Staffing
- Cleaning and disinfecting

### 3. [Handwashing and respiratory etiquette](#)

To help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus, SISD has the opportunity and responsibility to educate students, families, and staff on social etiquette, good health and hygiene habits, and disease prevention. SISD will provide regular hand-washing and respiratory hygiene/cough etiquette education for all K-12 students. Our basic educational message will be:

- Cover your cough
- Wash hands often
- Stay home if sick
- Wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

### 4. [Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation](#)

The safety of our students and staff are our primary priority. SISD schools will be completely cleaned and disinfected regularly, and we will continue to adhere to all necessary safety precautions. In addition to the regular deep cleaning all school facilities, the cleaning steps outlined below are to be taken to disinfect workplace surfaces, chairs, tables, etc., to protect students and employees and reduce the risk of spread of infection.

# American Rescue Plan Act Mitigation and Prevention Plan



## General Disinfection Measures

Area	Frequency
Classrooms and Offices	At the end of each day
Appliances	Daily
Electronic Equipment	At the end of each use
General used objects like light switches, handles, sinks, restrooms	At least 2 times a day
Buses	At the end of each use
Common Areas	At the end of each use and/or between groups

Deep cleaning is triggered when an active student or employee is identified as positive for COVID-19 based on testing. When a student or employee with a suspected infectious disease is identified and has left the building, their work area, along with any other known places they have been will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. The person cleaning and disinfecting will wear a mask and gloves and will discard them immediately afterwards. Hands will be washed and sanitized at the completion of the procedure. During times of a specifically known or suspected disease outbreak, SISD will consult public health officials to determine if there is a proper way to discard waste or if other PPE should be worn by staff.

Additionally, a bleach solution spray bottle and/or disinfecting wipes will be provided to all classrooms, offices, and work locations. SISD employees are required to regularly disinfect personal workstations each day, schedule regular times during the school day for students to disinfect their personal workstations and disinfect all appliances and electronic equipment after each use.

SISD will utilize portable HEPA filter air purifier systems in classrooms and office space to improve indoor air quality.

SISD has contractors coming in to address improvements in air quality and ventilation in district buildings. SISD contracted ATS to develop a condition survey on the Throne Bay School and to tune and survey both Coffman and Naukati School buildings specifically focused on each school's HVAC and controls. This will help drive our CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) School Mechanical Control Upgrades in Thorne Bay where we still operate on pneumatic controls.

SISD will be making some improvements in Kasaan to help create space for social distancing and provide updated surfaces that are easier to clean. This is a small three-room school with a detached library that was used by the community as well as the district prior to Covid. The building is being repaired and updated surfaces to better serve SISD's needs. Creating space to further isolate groups from each other and to reduce the risk of spread through updated cleaning surfaces.

# American Rescue Plan Act Mitigation and Prevention Plan



## 5. [Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments](#)

SISD will collaborate with state, tribal, and local health departments when investigating cases and exposures to SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. SISD will coordinate with district counsel and the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) to ensure compliance with applicable laws related to privacy and the collection/sharing of this information as they undertake these activities.

SISD students, staff, and educators diagnosed with COVID-19 should isolate and stay away from the school premises until requirements for end of isolation are met. SISD will report COVID-19 cases to the health department, in accordance with applicable privacy and other laws as soon as they are informed. SISD will quickly prepare and provide information and records to aid in the identification of potential exposures and close contacts at district facilities and/or events. SISD will notify close contacts (and families of close contacts in the K-12 setting), in accordance with applicable privacy and other laws, of exposure as soon as possible after they are notified that someone in the K-12 school tested positive for or been diagnosed with COVID-19. Prompt and coordinated actions, including case investigation and contact tracing, in combination with isolation and quarantine, will inform decision-making about strengthening and focusing prevention strategies. Per the CDC guidance at the time of this plan's approval:

The quarantine options for unvaccinated contacts are:

- a. If you remain asymptomatic you may have a shortened quarantine starting on day #8 with negative testing done on days 5 through 7. Must wear a face covering and strict social distance in public settings through day #14.
- b. If you remain asymptomatic you may have a shortened 10-day quarantine without testing. May resume regular activities on day #11. Must wear a face covering and strict social distance in public setting through day #14.
- c. The **safest** option is to quarantine for a full 14 days which means you can resume regular activities on day #15.

Due to the delta variant, for fully vaccinated contacts:

- a. Quarantine not necessary. Continue to attend in-person school and participate in activities.
- b. Test 3-5 days after exposure (the testing timeframe is different for vaccinated individuals because studies have shown that if they contract COVID-19, their viral loads typically drop quickly)
- c. Wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result.

For individuals who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the previous 90 days, no quarantine and no testing is needed.

It is well documented that there was a relatively low rate of disease transmission between students in the classroom setting last year (good ventilation, good hand hygiene, students staying home when ill, masking, social distancing). DHSS' definition of a contact within school classrooms for students has

# American Rescue Plan Act Mitigation and Prevention Plan



changed. If students are spaced at least three feet apart and both the infected student and the exposed students were masked, the exposed students will not be considered contacts.

It is well documented that there was a relatively low rate of disease transmission between students in the classroom setting last year (good ventilation, good hand hygiene, students staying home when ill, masking, social distancing). DHSS' definition of a contact within school classrooms for students has changed. If students are spaced at least three feet apart and both the infected student and the exposed students were masked, the exposed students will not be considered contacts.

If universal masking is not in place, DHSS and SISD will continue to use the following guidelines for contact tracing

- a. Any person within 6 feet of the confirmed case during their infectious period for 15 minutes or more.
- b. Any person who was sneezed or coughed on by the confirmed case during their infectious period.
- c. Any household member of the confirmed case.

Contact tracing for extracurriculars will depend on the risk of the activity. We will be interested in indoor or outdoor settings, physical closeness, number of people, level of intensity, duration of time.

If a student or employee becomes ill at work and is exhibiting one or more of the COVID-19 symptoms above, they will be asked to leave and go home immediately. If a student or employee becomes ill at home and is exhibiting one or more of the COVID-19 symptoms, they will be asked to stay at home. The student or employee should be tested for COVID-19 and, if necessary, be evaluated by their health care provider. Due to the severe nature of a potential positive COVID-19 diagnosis, parents are asked to immediately pick their student up upon notification from the school that their child is exhibiting symptoms related to COVID-19. Any staff member exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms is asked to immediately notify their direct supervisor of their symptoms and leave school premises.

Employees returning to work from an approved medical leave may be asked to submit a health care provider's note before returning to work.

The student or staff member may not return to school until they have met one of the following criteria:

- If they test positive, they must stay home for 10 days since their first symptom or their positive test, whichever is earlier. Once it has been 10 days, they may return to school once they have not had a fever in 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medicine, as long as their other symptoms are improving.
- If they test negative, they may return to school when they have not had a fever in 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medicine and their other symptoms are improving.
- If they do not get a test, they must stay home for 10 days. They may return to school when it has been 10 days and they have not had a fever in 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medicine and their other symptoms are improving.
- If their health care provider determines there is an alternative diagnosis to COVID-19 causing their symptoms, they may be allowed back to school before 10 days and without a negative test as long as the following criteria are met:
  - Their symptoms have resolved, and they have not had a fever in 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medicine, and
  - They have a note from their health care provider saying it is safe for them to come back

# American Rescue Plan Act Mitigation and Prevention Plan



to school.

Each school will have an illness tracking Google.doc. Staff will be educated on how and why to complete the form. Each student and employee who is absent or sent home due to illness is put on this list, symptoms are documented, and travel history (in last 14 days) is charted. Questions that will be asked on the illness tracking Google.doc will be the following:

- What are the symptoms?
- Have they travelled in the last 14 days?
- Have they been in contact with anyone with coronavirus?

While we all hope to avoid exposure to illness from COVID-19, we need to be prepared for that possibility. If you or someone you've been in contact with has been exposed to the virus, our first concern is for your health and safety and those around you. **Students and staff members who have had direct contact with a confirmed, positive COVID-19 case are required to quarantine for 14 days. The student and staff member will be allowed to return to school upon receipt of a release from quarantine letter from Craig Public Health.** In this rapidly changing situation, healthcare providers should have the most up-to-date information from CDC.

For all out of state travel SISD staff and students shall follow all state travel orders, mandates, and health advisories and alerts.

- All staff and students older than 10 should be tested at the Ketchikan Airport upon return to Alaska or have a negative COVID test within 72 hours of departure into Alaska.
- Unvaccinated staff and students cannot return to school for five days after travel outside of Alaska that is longer than 72 hours and negative test results are received. They may return to school after the five days as long as they remain symptom free.
- It is recommended that staff and students receive a follow-up COVID test 5-14 days after arrival.
- Fully vaccinated staff and students can return to school immediately as long as they are symptom free.
- If unvaccinated staff or students do not get a test at the Ketchikan Airport or within 72 hours of departure into Alaska, they must stay home for 10 days. They may return to school when it has been 10 days and remain symptom free.

## 6. [Diagnostic and screening testing](#)

SISD has prioritized ARPA funding to provide testing for all student extra-curricular events for the student participants and coaches/chaperones to ensure students have access to these "outside" school learning activities. SISD has also prioritized ARPA funding to provide testing for all staff members engaged in district business who are required to travel off island to other Alaskan communities.

In partnership with SEARHC, SISD has a year-long contract for testing. All students and staff members traveling off island for district sponsored extra-curricular events or district sponsored business shall receive a COVID-19 test and negative results prior to travel to ensure all SISD students and staff are symptom free of COVID-19.

Student and staff travel to other Alaskan communities will be determined on a case-by-case basis and will include the current COVID-19 risk level of the community and school.



# American Rescue Plan Act Mitigation and Prevention Plan



SISD will follow ASAA COVID-19 Practice Guidelines and ASAA COVID-19 Event Guidelines for athletics and extra-curricular activities.

## 7. [Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible](#)

SISD has partnered with SEARHC, PEACE Health, and Prince of Wales Public Health to provide staff, students, parents, and community members information about vaccinations. SISD has regularly sent out emails to staff, students, and parents regarding the availability of vaccinations and how to access.

SISD will continue to work with local and state health agencies to support messaging and outreach about vaccination for members of school communities. SISD communication platforms will facilitate outreach to encourage vaccination of household members of school-age children as they become eligible. This will include outreach in a language that limited English proficient family members or students can understand and in alternate formats as needed to facilitate effective communication for individuals with disabilities.

## 8. [Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies](#)

Based upon specifications of their individualized education plans (IEPs/504 plans), students with disabilities may be served outside of their regular group time. Individual student services will be based upon a team decision for what is the best for each child based upon the child's disability. This may include in person school during school closures for a full or partial day. This may include continued provision of school transportation during times that busses are cancelled due to school closures. This may include additional services provided in a home-based environment, special equipment provided in the home, etc. Requirements for the use of masks and other PPE will be determined on an individual basis for students with disabilities.

## Continuity of Services

Describe how the district will ensure continuity of services including, but not limited to, services to address students' academic needs, as well as the social, emotional, mental health, and other needs of students and staff (e.g., student health and food service).

SISD has a full-time school counselor on staff to serve our K-12 students. The counselor will work with SISD administration to determine when her services will be provided in-person or remotely. The counselor will work with schools to support staff with best practices around Trauma Informed Practices. A focus will be placed on supporting a positive climate and culture that acknowledges universal trauma care strategies for students.

Additionally, SISD has a one-to-one electronic device program for all K-12 students. In the event the district or a specific school has to move to Red/High Risk Scenario Distance Learning students will be able to access all classroom content through their electronic devices. All SISD schools will utilize the CANVAS electronic learning platform, Google Classroom, Edgenuity and/or Zoom to provide distance instructional support. All SISD schools will also utilize web-based educational platforms, teacher developed

# American Rescue Plan Act Mitigation and Prevention Plan



instructional packets, and one-on-one teacher check-ins with each student.

In the event the district or a specific school has to move to Red/High Risk Scenario Distance Learning SISD will provide breakfast and lunch service that is either picked up or delivered to specific locations within the community for student and family pick-up for all students 18 years old and younger.

## Periodic Review

Describe how the district will periodically review and revise its mitigation plan, as appropriate, including a description of how the district will seek public input and take such input into account on (1) whether revisions are necessary and, if so, (2) the proposed revisions to the plan.

**Important Note:** The district must review its mitigation plan no less frequently than every six months for the duration of the ARP ESSER grant period (i.e., through September 30, 2023).

SISD developed a survey for all students, staff, parents, community members asking for input for the district's preparations for the 2021-2022 school year that was administered to all students, parents, staff, and community members from May 24, 2021 to June 9, 2021. Survey results can be accessed [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1EvxbFHbx4DJzmaRk72ooCEFESlaaN5LZd\\_Q8kiNJOnC/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1EvxbFHbx4DJzmaRk72ooCEFESlaaN5LZd_Q8kiNJOnC/edit?usp=sharing)

Additionally, the SISD has developed a Mitigation Advisory Committee to develop recommendations for the Board's consideration for the development of SISD's ARPA Mitigation and Prevention Strategies. The SISD Mitigation Advisory Committee is comprised of members from the different SISD stakeholder groups:

- Certified Teachers
- Classified Staff Members
- Parents
- Students
- SISD Administrators
- SISD Technology Director
- Prince of Wales Medical Providers
- SISD Board President

The Committee will meet to review the stakeholder survey data, review the current SISD Smart Start to School Guidelines, review the guidelines with the American Rescue Plan Act Mitigation Template, and develop a Mitigation and Prevent Strategy following DEED's ARPA guidelines.

The SISD Board Mitigation Advisory Committee will meet monthly to review the SISD's ARPA Mitigation and Prevention Strategies and provide recommendations to the SISD School Board for their consideration. The SISD ARPA Mitigation and Prevention Strategies will be a regular "Old Business" agenda item each month for the SISD Board's consideration.