



Southeast Island School District

American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act

Mitigation and Prevention Plan

2021-22

Board Approved 9/3/21

Board Approved updates 10/26/21

Board Approved updates 2/23/22



Mitigation Plan

Plan Components

Districts must implement, to the greatest extent practicable, prevention and mitigation policies in line with the most up-to-date guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the reopening and operation of school facilities to effectively maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff. Describe the extent to which the district adopted policies and a description of such policies on each of the strategies listed below:

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

SISD Recommends Following CDC Guidance, however will continue to respect Mask Choice.

In consultation with state and local public health representatives, SISD recommends that students, staff, and all school visitors follow the CDC guidance of universal indoor masking in all school facilities during school hours. However, SISD also recognizes individual and parent/guardian choice with regard to masking. SISD will encourage staff, students, and all school visitors to follow the suggested CDC guidelines, but will respect individual rights and decisions regarding “mask choice.”

Mask Choice does not apply in the following circumstances:

- SISD mitigation plans for athletics or special events/activities requiring mask wearing per ASAA and regional games.

To allow for transparency, SISD highly recommends “mask choice” be carefully considered given the current Public Health “Close Contact Tracing Process” as detailed on page #5 of the SISD ARPA Mitigation and Prevention Plan.

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

SISD Strongly Recommends Following CDC Guidance, However Respects Mask Choice.

In consultation with state and local public health representatives, SISD strongly recommends that students, staff, and all school visitors follow the CDC guidance of universal indoor masking in all school facilities during school hours. However, SISD also recognizes individual and parent/guardian choice with regard to masking. SISD will encourage staff, students, and all school visitors to follow the suggested CDC guidelines, but will respect individual rights and decisions regarding “mask choice.”

Mask Choice does not apply in the following circumstances:

- SISD mitigation plans for athletics or special events/activities requiring mask wearing per ASAA and regional games.

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 no mask requirement, in-person with masks required and distance delivery. This decision will be made by district administration in consultation with local school staff.

SISD will closely monitor SE regional trends with COVID-19 infections to include Juneau, Sitka, Ketchikan, Anchorage and Seattle. If regional and/or individual SISD community trends shift rapidly, SISD will utilize this information to consider transitioning to a higher risk scenario to protect our students, families, and staff members. Mask choice vs universal masking requirements will be considered separately for individual schools and will be based on the number of cases in the community that directly impact that school. This decision will be made by district administration in consultation with local school staff.

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. 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 low/moderate risk scenarios that include in-person instruction. SISD will provide service to the south side of Thorne Bay, Hollis, Klawock and Craig. Students and bus drivers will be required to follow federal transportation regulations if masks are required. During High Risk scenarios when the district has moved to a distance instructional model bus service will be canceled.

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 infectious diseases, SISD has the opportunity and responsibility to continue 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, healthy lifestyle, and immune system education for all K-12 students. Our basic educational message will be:

- Cover your cough
- Wash hands often
- Stay home if exhibiting disease symptoms



- Maintain a healthy lifestyle
- How the immune system protects us
- How to support a strong immune system

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 of 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.

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 Thorne 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-19. 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 though updated cleaning surfaces.

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

After two years of experience with Covid-19 staff, parents and students have become seasoned veterans when it comes to mitigating the transmission of infectious diseases.

With that in mind, the following protocols will stay in place with the goal of maintaining the health of all district stakeholders;

- Monitoring temperatures of people entering district facilities
- Recording temperatures in excess of 100 F, and any associated disease symptoms
- Requesting staff and students stay home if experiencing disease symptoms;
- Maintaining cleaning protocols

If a student or employee becomes ill at work and is exhibiting one or more of the disease symptoms outlined below 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 disease symptoms outlined below they will be asked to stay at home.

- | | | |
|--|--|-----------------------------|
| *Cough | *Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing | *Tiredness or fatigue |
| *Chills | *Repeated shaking with chills | *Muscle or body aches |
| *Headache | *Sore throat | *New loss of taste or smell |
| *Diarrhea | *Congestion or runny nose | *Nausea or vomiting |
| *Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.3 degrees F | | |

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.

Voluntary COVID-19 testing for staff members and students may be available at each school site, as allowed by the CLIA waiver.

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.

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



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

SISD has partnered with SEARHC, PeaceHealth, 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 buses are canceled 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 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 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 Members

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.