

Pandemic Flu (Influenza)

This section is intended to help define Pandemic Flu (Influenza) and outline the District's response to a local event.

Definition:

“An influenza pandemic occurs when a new influenza virus emerges for which there is little or no immunity in the human population, begins to cause serious illness, and then spreads easily person-to person worldwide.” (State of Alaska Pandemic Flu Website: <http://www.pandemicflu.alaska.gov/panflu/default.htm>).

Overall Strategy

Several state and federal agencies, including the Centers for Disease Control and the World Health Organization, are working together to provide the latest information and containment strategies. Lake and Peninsula School District will work with these and other local agencies in the event of a local occurrence.

Specific Lake & Peninsula School District Strategy

School Closures:

The District will work with local, state and federal agencies to keep each school open as long as it is in the best interest of the students, staff and community. A school closure may only occur when authorized by one or more of the following: the Superintendent of Schools, the Governor of Alaska and the Alaska Division of Public Health.

In the event of a Pandemic Flu outbreak, every attempt will be made to continue instruction for homebound students using existing technology. Alternate methods of delivery of instruction will be identified in order to continue student education in the event of school closure. These could include, but not be limited to, online classrooms and a temporary shift to homeschooling with teacher assistance.

Make-Up Days for school days missed due to closure will be determined by the Superintendent or designee. In the event of a lengthy closure the Superintendent or designee will work with the State Board of Education to determine an appropriate alternative.

Modified School Days:

One potential adaptation could include a modified school day. The Superintendent or designee will determine the specific schools, the type of modification and the length of time this modification will be in place.

Staffing and Personnel:

By virtue of their qualifications, some school staff may be called upon to provide services to the community instead of fulfilling their occupational duties within the District. The Superintendent or designee will reconfigure site staffing as needed to provide for educational continuity in the classroom.

It is recognized that all personnel in every job classification could be affected in the event of a Pandemic Flu/Influenza event. The District recognizes that many significant decisions will need

to be made without the luxury of prior planning since it is not possible to determine the actual circumstances prior to their occurrence.

Organizational Leadership:

In the event the Superintendent is unable to function in his/her job capacity, another designated individual will assume these duties.

Communication:

Every effort will be made to provide clear and ongoing communication to staff, students and the community regarding the most current updates and decisions pertinent to their relationship with the District.

Communication may be conducted through, but not limited to, the District website, phone trees, media coverage, and email.