



NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Ambler · Buckland · Deering · Kiana · Kivalina · Kobuk · Kotzebue · Noatak · Noorvik · Selawik · Shungnak
PO Box 51 · Kotzebue, Alaska 99752 · Phone (907) 442-1800

NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act

MITIGATION PLAN

Last Updated: April 12, 2022

MISSION: To provide a learning environment that inspires and challenges students and employees to excel
VISION: To graduate all students with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for a successful future



Contact Information

District Information

Name of District: Northwest Arctic Borough School District

District Point of Contact Name: Scott Lefebvre, Assistant Superintendent

Address (Street, City, State, Zip): 776 Third Avenue, Kotzebue, Alaska 99752

Phone: 907-442-1804 Email: slefebvre@nwarctic.org

Assurance Agreement for ARP Act Mitigation Plan

The district assures either:

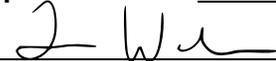
- a) It will, within 30 days of receiving ARP ESSER funds, develop and make publicly available on the district's website a mitigation plan for the safe return and/or continuation of in-person instruction and continuity of services as required in section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP and in the U.S. Department of Education's [Interim Final Requirements](#), or
- b) It developed and made publicly available on the district's website such a mitigation plan that meets statutory requirements before the enactment of the ARP Act that meets -federal requirements. (The ARP Act was enacted on March 11, 2021)

The district assures that:

- a) It will periodically review and revise its mitigation plan, as appropriate, no less frequently than every six months for the duration of the ARP ESSER grant period (i.e., through September 30, 2023); and
- b) It 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 mitigation plan.

Before making the mitigation plan publicly available, the district **must seek public comment on the mitigation plan** and take such comments into account in the development of the plan.

Name of Superintendent: Terri Walker

Signature: 

Date: 04/12/2022



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](#)

Consistent and [correct mask](#) use is universally required (i.e., required regardless of vaccination status) in all NWABSD buildings and school buses that have **HIGH** [COVID-19 Community Levels](#).

The District 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. No disciplinary action will be taken against a student who does not have a mask as described in the [U.S. Department of Education COVID-19 Handbook, Volume 1](#).

Exceptions for those with disabilities will be determined in accordance with Federal disability law.

The district will continue to follow updated guidance provided by the CDC on the use of masks in school settings.

2. [Physical distancing \(e.g., including use of cohorts/pods\)](#)

Physical distancing of at least 3 feet of distance between students within classrooms and eating areas will be maintained.

Desk shields will be required for individual student eating areas in schools that have **HIGH** [COVID-19 Community Levels](#).

The mitigation layer of cohorting may be used within schools to reduce COVID-19 transmission in schools that have less than 6 feet of physical distance. Cohorting means keeping people together in a small group and having each group stay together throughout an entire day. Cohorting can be used to limit the number of students, teachers, and staff who come in contact with each other, especially when it is challenging to maintain physical distancing, such as among young children, and particularly in areas of moderate-to-high transmission levels. The use of cohorting can limit the spread of COVID-19 between cohorts but should not replace other prevention measures within each group. Cohorting people who are fully vaccinated and people who are not fully vaccinated into separate cohorts is not recommended. It is a school's responsibility to ensure that cohorting is done in an equitable manner that does not perpetuate academic, racial, or other tracking, as described in the [U.S. Department of Education COVID-19 Handbook, Volume 1](#).

Gatherings of students that include multiple grades and/or classes may occur provided students are physically distanced by no less than 3 feet.

The District will continue to follow updated guidance provided by the CDC on physical distancing.

NWABSD Mitigation Plan

American Rescue Plan Act



3. [Handwashing and respiratory etiquette](#)

Schools will monitor and reinforce handwashing and [respiratory etiquette](#) (covering coughs and sneezes) and provide adequate handwashing supplies. Schools will:

- Teach and reinforce [handwashing](#) with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Remind everyone in the facility [to wash hands frequently](#) and assist young children with handwashing.
- Make hand sanitizer available.

The District will help students and staff understand that handwashing and respiratory etiquette should continue beyond the pandemic to prevent other infections.

The District will continue to follow updated guidance provided by the CDC on handwashing and respiratory etiquette.

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

High-touch surfaces will be cleaned routinely. Desks and tables will be cleaned in between each use of different students.

If a facility has had a sick person or someone who tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 24 hours, the space will be closed until it is cleaned AND disinfected.

Air filters across the district are being replaced with air filters ranging between Merv 8-13. Fresh air intake has been increased from 10% intake into buildings to 50% intake.

Exhaust fans will be used in kitchens and restrooms.

The District will continue to follow updated guidance provided by the CDC on cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation.

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

School principals and District staff will cooperate with regional health provider requests to support contact tracing efforts to the extent allowable by privacy laws. Confidentiality will be provided regarding persons diagnosed with or exposed to COVID – 19.

School staff will communicate with regional health providers regarding any positive cases and will proactively communicate with staff and families of any close contact exposure suspected to occur within the school setting.

- **CLOSE CONTACTS:** Parents will be notified if their child is suspected to have been exposed to COVID-19 while at school and is considered a [close contact](#). Notifications will include information on testing, monitoring for symptoms, quarantining after exposure, and when to return to school. Students and staff with COVID-19 exposure:
 - a) **NOT up to date on COVID-19 vaccinations:**
 - i) Stay home from school for 5 full days after exposure

NWABSD Mitigation Plan

American Rescue Plan Act



- ii) Test on day 5 or later
 - iii) Return to school on the 6th day after a negative test result
 - iv) Mask for an additional 5 days after returning to school
 - v) If no test is available, students and staff return to school on the 11th day after exposure
 - b) [Up to date on COVID-19 vaccinations](#)
 - i) Monitor for symptoms
 - ii) Test on day 5 or later
 - iii) Mask for 10 days while at school
- **HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS:** Staff and students that have a household member diagnosed COVID positive (regardless of the ability of that household member to isolate) are:
 - a) **NOT** [up to date on COVID-19 vaccinations](#)
 - i) Quarantine at home
 - ii) Test within the 5 days after the household member has completed their mandatory isolation
 - iii) Return to school on the 6th day after a negative test result
 - iv) Mask for an additional 5 days after returning to school
 - v) If no test is available, students and staff may return to school on the 11th day after their household member is cleared
 - b) [Up to date on COVID-19 vaccinations](#)
 - i) Monitor for symptoms
 - ii) Mask for the duration of the household member's isolation
 - iii) Test 5 days after the household member has completed their mandatory isolation
 - iv) Mask for an additional 5 days (10 days if no test is available) after the household member completes isolation
- **90-DAY LETTER EXEMPTIONS:** Students and staff who have tested positive for COVID-19 do not need to get tested again or quarantine for up to 3 months as long as they do not develop symptoms. Staff and students who are within 3 months of their bout of COVID-19 and develop symptoms must adhere to the above mitigation. A letter from a medical facility attesting to the student/staff qualifications for this exemption must be provided.

The District will continue to work closely with Maniilaq Health Center and Maniilaq Public Health officials to update protocols as necessary. The District will continue to follow updated guidance provided by the CDC on contact tracing.

NWABSD Mitigation Plan

American Rescue Plan Act



6. [Diagnostic screening testing](#)

School staff will advise staff and students who exhibit symptoms to stay home. Students and staff who develop symptoms at school will be placed in an isolation area until transportation can be arranged, or medical attention can be provided. The District will refer staff and students who exhibit symptoms for diagnostic testing at the local clinic.

Screening through molecular testing is provided at all schools and is a diagnostic molecular test. The School District molecular screening testing is to identify and isolate non-symptomatic COVID-positive cases to reduce the risk to in-person education.

School principals will develop a screening testing schedule for staff and student populations. When a community is experiencing **HIGH COVID-19 Community Levels**, screening testing will occur more frequently. The District has received a CLIA waiver and reports test results following State reporting requirements. Staff receive ongoing training on proper reporting.

All positive results from the School District molecular screening testing are a positive COVID diagnosis. People with positive molecular screening results will be placed in isolation until they are able to leave the school District facilities. Positive molecular results will be reported to Maniilaq Health. All COVID-positive students and staff are encouraged to work with a healthcare facility upon receiving a positive COVID molecular screening test result.

Informed consent is obtained prior to testing from the individual (adult) or parent (student). Informed consent requires disclosure, understanding, and free choice, and is necessary for teachers, staff (who are employees of a school) and students' families, to act independently and make choices according to their values, goals, and preferences.

TRAVEL: Students and staff recently diagnosed with COVID-19 will be eligible for District sponsored travel after they are released from isolation by a medical facility **and** 5 full additional days have passed.

The District will continue to follow updated guidance provided by the CDC on diagnostic testing and screening.

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

The District will work with Maniilaq Health Services to support vaccination efforts for staff and students when eligible. The District will use its communication tools and facilities, when appropriate, to help support and accommodate vaccination efforts.

The District will continue to follow updated guidance provided by the CDC on vaccination efforts.

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

Schools will make individualized determinations as required by Federal disability laws to determine if an exception to mask requirements is necessary and appropriate. Additional determinations will be made on a case-by-case basis in compliance with Federal disability laws.



Continuity of Services

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).

The District strives to provide full-time in-person learning and believes that the mitigation strategies above help provide this opportunity. The District will no longer include remote learning in the Red High-Risk Operational Zone. For families who do not want in-person learning for their child, the District continues to offer a [homeschool program](#).

School risk operational zones are determined on an individual school basis in coordination with Maniilaq Health, local village leaders, and NWABSD Administration. The NWABSD has two operational zones: Green Low-Risk Operational Zone and Red High-Risk Operational Zone.

Green Low-Risk and Red High-Risk Operational Zones are based on [COVID-19 Community Levels](#).

MITIGATION	LOW	HIGH
Masking	Masking based on personal preference, informed by personal level of risk	Required universal masking indoors
Desk Shields	Use based on personal preference, informed by personal level of risk	Required use of desk shields while eating
Screening Testing	Based on routine schedule	Increase frequency of testing

If there is an outbreak in a community, the schools will return to universal masking during in-person learning. Every student has a personal device (iPad or laptop) to continue 1:1 learning. Support for social, emotional, and mental health will continue to be provided through Social Emotional Learning (SEL) instructional curriculum with additional support provided by school counselors.

Meal services will continue with the addition of desk shields for **HIGH** [COVID-19 Community Levels](#).

Periodic Review

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).

The District will provide stakeholder feedback opportunities prior to December and May of each semester through the following means:

- Parent Forums to answer questions and gain feedback
- Community Leadership Meetings to meet with tribal and municipal officials from each community
- Meetings with regional emergency operations officials
- Meetings with staff to answer questions and gain feedback