



NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Ambler · Buckland · Deering · Kiana · Kivalina · Kobuk · Kotzebue · Noatak · Noorvik · Selawik · Shungnak
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NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act

MITIGATION PLAN

Last Updated: April 17, 2023

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
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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: *Terri Walker*

Date: 04/17/2023

NWABSD Mitigation Plan

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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. [Staying Up to Date on Vaccinations](#)

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.

2. [Staying Home When Sick](#)

People who have symptoms of respiratory or gastrointestinal infections, such as cough, fever, sore throat, vomiting, or diarrhea, should stay home. Testing is recommended for people with [symptoms of COVID-19](#) as soon as possible after symptoms begin.

3. [Hand Hygiene 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](#)

High-touch surfaces will be cleaned routinely.

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

5. [Masks](#)

The District will provide masks to those students who choose to wear them. Anyone who chooses to wear a mask will be supported in their decision to do so at any time. The District will continue to follow updated guidance provided by local leadership on the use of masks in school settings.

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6. Management of Cases and Exposures

School staff will advise staff and students who exhibit symptoms to stay home. Students or staff who come to school with symptoms or develop symptoms while at school will be asked to wear a well-fitting mask while in the building and be sent home and encouraged to get tested.

Confidentiality will be provided regarding persons diagnosed with or exposed to COVID-19.

The NWABSD is not responsible for contact tracing. It is up to families and individuals to self-report their COVID status to those that may have been exposed.

Students and staff that have been exposed to COVID or have a household member diagnosed with COVID must follow the CDC guidance below regardless of vaccination status:

- a) The day of exposure is day 0
- b) Day 1 is the first full day after exposure
 - a) If you have a household member in isolation, Day 1 is the day after the household member tests positive
- c) Mask for 10 days after exposure while at school
- d) Monitor for symptoms
- e) Test on day six (6) or later
 - a) If you test negative, continue taking precautions and masking through day 10
 - b) If you test positive, stay home from school and isolate
 - i) You may return to school after day 5 if you had no symptoms or
 - ii) Your symptoms are improving, **and** you are fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication).

Students and staff that have been diagnosed with COVID and have completed isolation must follow the CDC guidance below regardless of vaccination status:

- a) Wear a mask through day 10 or
- b) With two sequential negative tests 48 hours apart, you may remove your mask sooner than day 10.

TRAVEL: Students and staff recently diagnosed with COVID-19 will be eligible for District sponsored travel after 5 full days (on or after day 6) and have completed isolation. Students and staff traveling on or after day 6 must wear a high-quality mask (KN95 or better).

Students and staff (who are chaperoning students) are not eligible for outbound district-sponsored travel until day 11 or later, regardless of the ability to mask.

Staff unable to continue to mask through day 10 while on district-sponsored travel will not be eligible for travel until day 11.

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

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7. [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. For families who do not want in-person learning for their child, the District continues to offer a [homeschool program](#).

If there is an outbreak in a community, the schools will follow local guidance 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 regardless of the [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, 2024).

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