

Hydaburg City School District

Response to COVID-19

Mitigation Plan

INTRODUCTION AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Hydaburg City School District's Mitigation Plan is a working plan developed to support the community's efforts to navigate the reestablishment of school where families, students, and staff feel safe as we work to reduce the risk of COVID-19. The guidelines referenced in this plan are based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS). Regular updates to this plan will be made as additional information from CDC, DHSS, and applicable federal, state, and local agencies becomes available.

<https://health.alaska.gov/dph/epi/id/pages/covid-19/schoolyear.aspx>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-childcare-guidance.html>

CURRENT PLAN

- **Masking:**

Mask protocols for students and staff are based upon CDC guidance, local risk levels and active case counts. As of August 29, 2022, masking for staff, students, and visitors became optional, unless you are within 10 days of a post-Covid positive test result.

- **Physical Distancing:**

Student/staff desks and tables will be placed to the best extent possible 3 feet apart, with 6 feet preferred. To the best extent practicable class sizes will be kept small to allow for extra space in the classroom.

- **Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette:**

Handwashing is one of the best ways to protect yourself and your family from getting sick. Staff at Hydaburg School will teach and reinforce

proper handwashing to lower the risk of spreading viruses, including the virus that causes COVID-19. The schools will monitor and reinforce these behaviors, especially during key times in the day:

- before and after eating and preparing food
- after using the restroom
- after recess
- after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing

Hydaburg School will also provide adequate handwashing supplies, including soap and water. There are also hand sanitizing stations available throughout the school buildings.

- **Testing:**

All HCSD students and staff members will have access to free antigen testing, as requested. Antigen testing may be used on a larger scale if case numbers increase in the school or community. Home tests will be readily available as supplies last. 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. HCSD will follow ASAA COVID-19 Practice Guidelines and ASAA COVID-19 Event Guidelines for athletics and extra-curricular activities.

- **Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation:**

Hydaburg School will ensure that staff clean surfaces at least once a day to reduce the risk of germs spreading by touching surfaces. For more information, see [Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility](#).

Hydaburg School will optimize [ventilation](#) and maintain improvements to indoor air quality to reduce the risk of germs and contaminants spreading through the air.

- **Contact tracing:**

Hydaburg School will not be conducting contact tracing for confirmed positive Covid cases. If there is a confirmed case (or cases) in a student or staff, grade-specific (potential close contacts) families will be notified that a risk of infection is heightened or that they may have been exposed.

- **Vaccinations:**

Hydaburg School supports staying up to date on routine vaccinations. This is essential to prevent illness from many different infections. COVID-19 vaccination helps protect eligible people from getting severely ill with COVID-19. For COVID-19, staying up to date with Covid 19 vaccinations is the leading public health strategy to prevent severe disease.

- **Accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies:**

Students with disabilities will be considered for modification to the health and safety practices of the school with amendments to IEPs or implementation of a 504 plan, as appropriate. The resource room has access to a nearby bathroom and handwashing sink, as well as a sanitizing station in the room and HEPA filtered air cleaners. Special detail will be provided by custodians to these areas. Close communication with parents, the special education teacher, and the special education director takes place to ensure that students with disabilities are provided with a free and appropriate education in a safe manner.

- **Excused Absences:**

Hydaburg School will provide excused absences for students who are sick and provide support for students who are learning at home if they are sick. The school will allow flexible, non-punitive, and supportive paid sick leave policies and practices. The school ensures that employees and families are aware of and understand these policies by posting this document on the school website.

- **Continuity of Services:**

In the event the district, school, or students need to move to a remote learning option, students are able to access classroom content through their electronic devices. In the event the district must move to a remote learning option (“Red” status), HCSD will provide breakfast and lunch available for pickup at specific locations within the community for all students 18 years old and younger.

Hydaburg’s school counselor works with the administrative team (the superintendent, principal and administrative assistant) to determine if services will be provided in-person or remotely. Emphasis will be placed on schoolwide trauma-informed

practices to support students, families, and staff members. HCSD has a one-to-one electronic device program for all K-12 students.

11. Periodic Review:

The district will periodically review and revise this mitigation plan, as appropriate, depending on the local status of the Covid 19 virus. Hydaburg will gather public input, and each revision of this plan will be reviewed by the Hydaburg School Board. At minimum, the district will review the plan no less than every six months for the duration of the ARP ESSER grant period.