



Aleutians East Borough School District

P.O. Box 429, Sand Point, Alaska 99661

Ph. 907-383-5222 FAX 907-383-3496

**Serving the children in the Alaskan communities of:
Akutan, Cold Bay, False Pass, King Cove, and Sand Point**
www.aebsd.org

October 21, 2020

Greetings Parents and Guardians:

The Aleutians East Borough School District is committed to the safety and health of our students, staff and community at large, as well as to providing an excellent education to the children of the AEB.

In regard to balancing these two goals, we are very thankful to our community members that have taken precautions in order to protect our schools. As you know the AEBSB, out of an abundance of caution, closed Sand Point School to students for two weeks, as it is possible that there could have potentially been student exposure to Covid-19. We are all thankful that an outbreak was prevented. An unfortunate consequence of this precaution is a break in the continuity of the education of our children. Teachers, staff, parents, guardians and students are working hard to find a routine and catch up on lost time from last school year as well as time lost in those past two weeks.

While this break in education could have been prevented, it has also presented an opportunity for community members of the AEB to learn from this unfortunate situation. Covid-19 will likely enter the AEB again, and if we work together, we can protect the schools and the communities from outbreak.

Moving forward, we all must work together to protect our schools and community members. Here are some suggestions and requirements that we can consider.

1. Avoid unnecessary travel. If you must travel, avoid situations that could result in contracting Covid-19 during your trip. Quarantine yourself whenever possible, avoiding unnecessary social situations.
2. Wear a mask and social distance while traveling, as well as upon your return into your community.
3. When you return to your community, hard quarantine yourself and get tested for COVID-19.
4. Make sure to get tested after 7 days in the community, as it often takes one to two weeks after exposure for tests to give accurate results. Avoid all public events and locations during these 7 days.
5. **If you have a child attending AEBSB, do not allow your child to have close contact with anyone who has travelled outside of the community. If close contact cannot be avoided, keep your child home until the person travelling has tested negative 7 days after arriving back into the community. This is a great inconvenience to children and families; however, it is better than causing the closure of the school and halting education for everyone. Please be aware that this is a requirement of the School District. Staff and children who have traveled or had close contact with someone traveling must not go to school or be exposed to anyone attending school until they (or the persons traveling) have tested negative for Covid-19 after 7 days in the community.**

6. The AEBSD strongly recommends that anyone who travels and has close contact with staff or students attending school should not only follow the above recommendations and requirements, but also test on the 1st, 7th, and 14th day after arrival into the community. We also recommend in the second week after arriving in the community, that those who travelled and have close contact with those travelling continue to take extra precautions, and to avoid unnecessary social situations.

It is more important than ever to take these precautions as there has been an acceleration of cases in some areas of the State. People who are asymptomatic might still be carriers of COVID-19, and might not test positive until two weeks after exposure. We are all in this together, we are all neighbors with the same interest in seeing our children succeed and our elders protected. We also want to protect our healthcare providers, and keep our clinics from being overwhelmed. We must come together and do the right thing during these challenging times. Please feel free to contact the AEBSD District Office at 383-5222 with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patrick V. Mayer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P'.

Patrick Mayer,
Superintendent