



Aleutians East Borough School District

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

October 9, 2020

Greetings Members of the AEBSD Community:

As you all know, on Friday September 25, 2020 AEBSD became aware of a positive COVID-19 case in Sand Point and the school was closed to students through October 2, 2020. On Friday October 2, 2020 we were made aware of 2 more positive COVID-19 cases that out of an abundance of caution we closed schools to students, again, through October 9, 2020. These positive cases were documented in Eastern Aleutian Tribes CEO Paul Mueller's letters distributed on both September 25, 2020 and October 2, 2020.

As you know, it is our desire as a school district, and as a community to keep our schools open "face-to-face." This is very possible, but as a community we need to make certain that we are taking all necessary precautions to make that happen. I just finished a meeting with Dr. Ohlsen of the Department of Health and Social Services and she is one of three primary state experts regarding COVID-19. Although the final decision rests with the district, Dr. Ohlsen, Paul Mueller and our Public Health Nurse were critical team members in making the informed decision to close Sand Point School to students through October 9, 2020.

There is expected to be a statewide increase in COVID-19 cases over the next couple of months. This, however, does not have to be the case in our wonderful communities of the Aleutians East Borough. According to Dr. Ohlsen, increases in cases are determined by human behaviors. In other words, if people make good choices like not travelling unless absolutely necessary, self-quarantining immediately upon return then getting tested for COVID-19, socially distancing, rejecting congregate gatherings, and wearing a mask, then we will help keep our schools open. Our students are seriously behind with regard to their education and if we all work together, we can keep our schools open in the AEBSD.

There have been no positive COVID-19 results in Sand Point, according to EAT, since last Friday, October 2, 2020. Following discussions with Mr. Mueller, and after assessing any of our known risk factors, Sand Point School will be open for students on Monday October 12, 2020.

The school district will continue to implement the necessary parts of the SMART START plan developed over this past summer and the school will continue to sanitize the school according to CDC guidelines. Additionally, the Aleutians East Borough School District will continue to be in regular contact with EAT and the Department of Health and Social Services regarding any changes in the COVID-19 landscape. If there are any modifications to the above information, we will notify the community as appropriate.

Sincerely,

Patrick Mayer,
Superintendent