

# **BSSD School Operating Protocols**

## **Updated September 17, 2021**

### **Travel**

#### **District Plane/BA/Ravn**

All students and staff shall wear masks at all times when traveling on the district plane, Bering Air commercial or charter flights, or any Ravn flights from UNK-ANC. Please be aware of any testing requirements for each airline.

### **School Operations**

#### **Safety**

All school buildings should continue to be cleaned daily with approved cleaning agents (see maintenance).

### **Mitigation Measures**

#### **Villages with No Active Positive Cases**

Effective September 20, 2021, villages with No Known Active Positive Cases may go mask optional for all students and staff. It is still recommended that all students and staff should be masked in all common areas or when working in small groups.

Classrooms should continue to use social distancing with desks and students (transitions) as much as possible or continue to use desk dividers that have been provided.

Meal, gym, and playground schedules should continue to be adjusted accordingly to provide for as much social distancing as possible.

All after-school extra-curricular activities may continue at this time, with proper following of both district and site mitigation plans.

Schools may resume non-educational activities and events, including Open Gym, beginning September 20, 2021. It is recommended that those not actively participating in physical activity continue to wear masks.

School facilities may open to the public beginning September 20, 2021. Any use of school facilities by guests or outside groups may be permitted. Guests and outside contractors must be vaccinated to work with students and/or be housed in our schools.

### **Villages with Active Positive Cases**

Universal Masking for all students (Grade 1-12) and staff (regardless of vaccination status) will remain in place for all schools located in villages with Known Active Positive Cases. Once clearance has been given by NSHC that there are No Active Positive Cases in a village, the school may move to the No Active Cases Protocol outlined above.

Universal Masking will include all school buildings, district-owned buildings (excluding housing units), and any other building with partner organizations used for educating students, in villages with Known Active Positive Cases. Face shields will be available for students and teachers who may not be able to wear a mask for health reasons or for teachers of younger students.

School facilities will remain closed to the public until clearance has been given by NSHC that there are No Active Positive Cases in the village. Until that time, fully vaccinated guests may be permitted to stay in our schools to provide services to the community. The building itself should not be used for community events, except by approval of the Superintendent.

Classrooms should continue to use social distancing with desks and students (transitions) as much as possible or continue to use desk dividers that were provided last year.

Meal, gym, and playground schedules should continue to be adjusted accordingly to provide for as much social distancing as possible.

All after-school extra-curricular activities may continue at this time, with proper following of both district and site mitigation plans.

Schools may not resume non-educational activities and events, including Open Gym, until clearance has been given by NSHC that there are No Active Positive Cases in the village.

Once a village has been given clearance by NSHC that there are No Active Positive Cases in the village, the school may begin following the No Active Cases Protocol outlined above.

### **Mandates**

District staff are to follow all mandates required by their community and the BSSD safety protocol in order to protect themselves and those around them. Vaccination and testing requirements could change as situations involving the COVID-19 Delta variant changes.

### **Symptom-Free Schools**

Symptom-free schools include maintaining a school without the following symptoms: fever, sore throat, runny nose, cough, shortness of breath, vomiting, diarrhea. Students should be symptom-free for at least 24 hours prior to attempting to return to school.

The following protocol and considerations should be made when determining if it is safe for students or staff to return to school.

1. Any child with a temp of 100° or higher should be sent home.
2. Student should remain home until they have had no fever for 24 hours, without medication (tylenol/motrin, etc)
3. Any child who has any illness should be sent home. We are working under an “illness-free” school plan for the year. This means anyone with any individual symptom or combination of symptoms including cough, sore throat, vomiting/diarrhea, fever, runny nose, muscle aches.
4. Students who present with any illness should be sent home. The parent or guardian should then call the clinic to get an appointment to be evaluated.
5. The health aides or mid-levels will then see them and make the decision about testing and when they may return to school.
6. The clinic has a Return To School form. The clinic would then fill out that form.

### **School Closures**

The Bering Strait School District will collaborate with Norton Sound Health Corporation Public Health officials and local Tribal and Corporation Leadership to monitor disease outbreaks in our communities to determine when and if schools should be cancelled.

If school is cancelled due to an infectious outbreak, all other school-related gatherings (athletic events, after school activities, field trips, etc.) will also be cancelled. In some cases, non-academic events may be cancelled even if classes are not cancelled.

### **Maintenance**

Maintenance will continue on BSSD facilities. The delivery of maintenance will rely more on BSSD’s local crews. Outside maintenance contractors must be vaccinated, and follow all COVID-19 state, local and CDC guidelines.