



**BACK TO SCHOOL UPDATE – KEEPING OUR SCHOOLS SAFE & OPEN
FROM SUPERINTENDENT HANKINS**

October 6, 2021

Dear parents, students, and the entire LKSD learning community,

We are approaching the end of the first quarter of this school year and I would like to thank everyone for your support as we continue to navigate this new school year, including the COVID-19 Delta variant.

As the Delta variant continues to rapidly spread across Alaska and impact our communities, we greatly appreciate your continued help in keeping our schools and our communities safe and open.

Our goal is for our students to continue to attend school on an in-person, full-time basis. In support of this overarching aim, LKSD utilizes extensive COVID-19 safety measures and standards to protect the health and safety of our school community. These mitigation strategies include (see attached Covid-19 Health & Safety Reminders):

- universal masking for all students and staff, regardless of vaccination status
- physical distancing of at least three feet apart in all indoor spaces
- enhanced hand hygiene
- increased ventilation in classrooms and other indoor areas
- regular cleaning and disinfection of school spaces
- daily symptom monitoring
- surveillance testing (opt-in)
- contact tracing and quarantine (if necessary)
- vaccination (strongly encouraged if eligible)

As a reminder, LKSD offers diagnostic and screening tests on a regular basis at each of our schools. These tests are quick and easy, and offered to all students and staff, even if they don't have symptoms of COVID-19. These screening tests, which are provided on an opt-in basis, help us identify COVID-19 quickly and early and prevent an outbreak before it happens. If you haven't done so already, we strongly encourage you to opt-in to this program. You can enroll by contacting your local school directly. Regular testing helps protect our students, staff, family members, and others from getting seriously ill from COVID-19.

In addition, one of the most important prevention strategies is screening students and staff daily for any signs of illness prior to leaving home for school. Any student or staff who is ill or presents with COVID-like symptoms is to remain at home. Symptom-free schools are key.

Thank you for entrusting your child's education to our dedicated team of educators and staff. We are extremely grateful to our students, families and staff who continue to show great flexibility and resilience as we work together to contain the spread of this virus. The District and sites will continue to update parents and communities as we move forward.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kimberly Hankins", is written over a horizontal line.

Kimberly Hankins
Superintendent