



Updated August 11, 2021

2021-22 COVID-19 Mitigation Protocols

General Preparedness and Planning

The Fairbanks North Star Borough School District (FNSBSD) COVID-19 protocols are in place to protect the health and safety of our community and to minimize disruption to teaching and learning. This plan is continually updated as conditions change.

Mitigation Procedures in Brief

FNSBSD uses a variety of strategies designed to enhance the protection from, and prevention of, COVID-19.

- **According to the CDC, vaccinations are currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic.** FNSBSD encourages families to ask their primary care physician about the appropriateness of vaccinations for themselves and their family.
- **Use of Masks:**
 - **Current Requirement:** Masks are not required to be worn inside district buildings or outside on district property. By Federal requirement, masks must be worn inside of school buses.
 - FNSBSD encourages students and staff to evaluate the use of a face covering for their own situation.
- **Symptom Free Protocols and daily screening** for students, families, and employees to protect the health and safety of everyone.
- **Proper hygiene** in the form of hand washing and respiratory etiquette.
- **Routine disinfecting** of classrooms and offices.
- **Physical distancing** of three feet will be observed in classrooms, where practicable, without limiting educational experience or student participation.
- **Surveillance Testing:** Voluntary testing is available for staff and students and required for students traveling for activities.
- **Contact tracing** will be collaborative with Public Health.
- **Isolation and Quarantine** is expected of students and staff for positive cases and unvaccinated close contacts.

Drop Off/Pick up of Students, Volunteers

Parents and families are again welcome to enter schools and volunteer in classrooms. Please follow school district mitigation protocols and stay out of school buildings if you are not feeling well or have symptoms.

Healthy Hand Hygiene

All students and staff should frequently wash their hands with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds throughout the day. Hand sanitizer will be available for use when soap and water are not available, i.e. the playground, building entrance.

Daily Cleaning and Sanitizing

FNSBSD custodial staff cleans schools and classrooms nightly. High touch surfaces are cleaned during the school day. If there has been a person that has tested positive for COVID-19 in a school or district facility within the last 24 hours, thorough cleaning and disinfection will take place.

Symptom Free Schools

Anyone who enters a district school or building must comply with the Symptom-Free Schools screening. This includes students, staff, families, visitors and volunteers.

Families and employees are expected to review the [Student and Staff Wellness Check](#) each day before entry into a district building.

Please do not enter a school facility if you are sick, quarantining, or are unvaccinated and waiting for test results. Please monitor for COVID-19 Symptoms:

- **Fever (at least 100.4F) • Chills • Cough • Shortness of Breath • Trouble Breathing**
- **Fatigue • Muscle/Body Aches • Sore Throat • New Loss of Taste/Smell • Headache**
- **Nausea • Congestion/Runny Nose • Vomiting • Diarrhea**

Individuals with symptoms are highly encouraged to seek medical care from their doctor and get tested for COVID-19.

COVID-19 Symptoms at School - Students

If COVID-19 symptoms begin while at school - fever of 100.4 or higher, cough or other signs of respiratory illness:

- The child will be sent home as soon as possible.
- Sick children will be kept separate from others.
- Contact will be limited as much as reasonably possible, while ensuring the safety and supervision of the child until they leave.

COVID-19 Symptoms at School - Staff

Vaccinated and unvaccinated employees should monitor their health daily and only report to work if symptom free. Staff should stay home if they are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 and contact their healthcare provider.

- Staff exhibiting new or worsening symptoms of possible COVID-19 at work should:
 - Inform their supervisor and leave the classroom or work location
 - Consider obtaining a COVID-19 test through the school district or at any of the COVID Assessment Sites
 - Follow the recommendations of Public Health and their healthcare provider
 - With a negative test, employee may return to work when symptoms have resolved

COVID-19 Exposure - Staff and Students

If a staff member or student is determined to be a close contact to someone who is diagnosed with COVID-19 by a Public Health Contact Tracer, that person will be expected to follow Public Health guidance, which may include quarantine for unvaccinated individuals.

Positive Case of COVID-19

If COVID-19 is confirmed in a student or staff member, that person will be required to isolate per Public Health and CDC guidelines.

- Family or staff are encouraged to call the school office to report a positive case of COVID-19 in their family.
- Schools will notify to the best of their ability the families of students in any affected classroom(s). Confidentiality will be maintained.

Student or Staff with a Positive Case of COVID-19 - Return to School

Students or staff who have exhibited symptoms and tested positive can return to school when the following criteria are met:

- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared, or since the positive COVID-19 test **and**
 - The student or staff member shows improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath)
- For more details, please refer to the [DHSS Public Health Guidance](#).

Contact Tracing

Contact tracing is a strategy used by the Department of Public Health to determine the source of an infection and how it is spreading. Finding people who are close contacts to a person who has tested positive for

COVID-19, and therefore at higher risk of becoming infected themselves, can help prevent further spread of the virus. To protect the health and safety of the public, FNSBSD and Public Health communicate regularly and share information about cases of exposure and positive results for COVID-19.

In the K–12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition *excludes* students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an COVID-19 positive student where:

- both students were engaged in consistent and [correct](#) use of [well-fitting masks](#); and
- other [K–12 school prevention strategies](#) (such as universal and correct mask use, physical distancing, increased ventilation) were in place in the K–12 school setting.

This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.

Notifications of positive COVID-19 Cases and Exposure

If there is a positive case, you will be notified that an individual who has been in your classroom/office has tested positive for COVID-19. You will also be advised of any closures of classrooms, activities or schools.

The proper Public Health and district protocols will be followed to isolate the individual diagnosed with COVID-19, identify close contacts, and deep clean and disinfect. Any close contacts will be directly contacted by phone or in person that they may have been exposed. Unless you are directly notified, you have not been identified as a close contact and do not need to quarantine or be tested.

Each situation is different, and the school district will provide as much information about each circumstance as possible while meeting requirements for protecting people's privacy.

We learn more about COVID-19 every day. These mitigation strategies will be reassessed and modified as needed to respond to emerging knowledge.