

Sitka School District Quick Summary

Updated 8/13/21

Alert Level*	Mask/Face Covering	Class	Bussing	Sports & Gatherings	Lunch	COVID Testing
HIGH (15+ cases in 14 days)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required indoors for all students & staff regardless of vaccination status 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-person At least 3 feet physical distancing Assigned seating Routine cleaning of high-touch surfaces Use of hand sanitizer and good hand hygiene 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masks/Face coverings required for all students and staff on the bus** Hand sanitization required upon entering Assigned seating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sports traveling restricted or cancelled No spectators Increased mitigations and/or cancellation of designated “high risk” sports*** No large student gatherings or assemblies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical distancing and mask/face covering in line Masks/Face covering removed only to eat or drink Lunches scheduled to limit capacity and/or keep students in groups Encourage good hand hygiene 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly testing for students participating in extracurricular activities Optional weekly testing available for all students and staff
MODERATE (8-14 cases in 14 days)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required indoors for all students & staff regardless of vaccination status 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-person At least 3 feet physical distancing Assigned seating Routine cleaning of high-touch surfaces Use of hand sanitizer and good hand hygiene 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masks/Face coverings required for all students and staff on the bus** Hand sanitization required upon entering Assigned seating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited spectators to allow for physical distancing between groups Masks required for all spectators and students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical distancing and mask/face covering in line Masks/Face covering removed to eat or drink Lunches scheduled to limit capacity and/or keep students in groups Encourage good hand hygiene 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly testing for students participating in extracurricular activities Optional weekly testing available for all students and staff
LOW (1-7 cases in 14 days)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optional (except as required for all students and staff on the bus**) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-person Assigned seating Routine cleaning of high-touch surfaces Use of hand sanitizer and good hand hygiene 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masks/Face coverings required for all students and staff on the bus** Hand sanitization encouraged upon entering Assigned seating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masks recommended for non-vaccinated spectators and students Limited student events allowed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical distancing Lunches scheduled to limit capacity and/or keep students in groups Encourage good hand hygiene 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly testing for students participating in extracurricular activities Optional weekly testing available for all students and staff
MINIMAL (0 cases in 14 days)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optional (except as required for all students and staff on the bus**) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-person Routine cleaning of high-touch surfaces Encourage the use of hand sanitizer and good hand hygiene 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masks/Face coverings required for all students and staff on the bus** Hand sanitization encouraged upon entering Assigned seating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masks/Face coverings optional 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage good hand hygiene 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly testing for students participating in extracurricular activities Optional weekly testing available for all students and staff

* Alert level indicators may change to align with the City of Sitka's alert level guidance.

** CDC Order 42 U.S.C. 264(a) and 42 CFR 70.2, 71.31(b), and 71.32(b) requires the masking of persons on all U.S. transit systems.

*** As defined by Alaska School Activities Association (ASAA)

Sitka School District Mask/Face Covering Policy

For the 2021-22 school year, SSD alert levels will align with the City of Sitka’s COVID-19 Dashboard alert levels. Using the city’s alert levels of High (red), Moderate (orange), Low (yellow), and Minimal (blue), SSD’s masking policy will be as follows:

Minimal (0 cases in 14 days)	Low (1-7 cases in 14 days)	Moderate (8-14 cases in 14 days)	High (15+ cases in 14 days)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masks/Face coverings optional Masks/Face coverings required for all students and staff on the bus* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masks/Face coverings optional Masks/Face coverings required for all students and staff on the bus* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masks/Face coverings required indoors for all students & staff regardless of vaccination status 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masks/Face coverings required indoors for all students & staff regardless of vaccination status

* CDC Order 42 U.S.C. 264(a) and 42 CFR 70.2, 71.31(b), and 71.32(b) requires the masking of persons on all U.S. transit system

A When a mask/face covering is required

- Masks must be worn while indoors **during the student contact day**, except as in sections B and C.
- When the community alert level is **Moderate** or **High**, all staff and students must wear a mask or face covering at all times within a school building.

B When not to wear masks/face covering - Maintain a distance of 3 to 6 feet from other people

- In wet conditions, i.e. while using a power washer, while working outside in the rain, while in a swimming pool.
- While performing strenuous or physical activities where a mask interferes with breathing. Masks/face coverings must be donned while on breaks and between activities.

C When a mask/face covering is OPTIONAL

- While eating or drinking – physical distancing of 3 to 6 feet should be in place/observed.
- Masks/face coverings **are optional** in outdoor/playground areas for staff and students during supervised mask breaks; if staff members move within 3 feet of a student or another staff member in an outdoor setting, they should use a mask/face covering.
- Spectators attending games at Moller Field for high school sporting events should mask in the covered areas (where physical distancing is challenging) when the city alert level is Moderate or High; masks/face coverings are optional in all other outside areas.
- Masking is optional for vaccinated district staff before and after the student contact day while the community alert level is Minimal, Low, or Moderate.**
- Masking is required for all staff gatherings with more than five staff while the alert level is Moderate or High. Physical distancing will be observed regardless of vaccination status.

D Definitions

- “Mask” means a medical grade face mask. “Face covering” means a cloth, polypropylene, or other face covering. Both “mask” and “face covering” must cover the nose and the mouth and rest snugly above the nose, below the mouth, and on the sides of the face.
- Enclosed personal work area: space assigned to an employee to perform their work, such as a classroom or office that has a closing door. When the door is closed, the employee is completely isolated from other people.
- Open personal work area: space assigned to an employee to perform their work, such as a desk in a large room to which other people have available access. The employee is not isolated from other people.
- Shared personal work area: space assigned to several employees to perform their work, such as a room with several desks like a school office. Employees are not isolated from each other.
- Common area: any area in a district building to which more than one employee or student has ready access whether simultaneously or separately.

ADA Accommodation: If a medical condition inhibits your ability to wear a mask/face covering, contact Chris Voron at voronc@sitkaschools.org



2021-22 COVID-19 Testing and Return-to-School Procedures

During the 2021-22 school year, students and staff will have access to rapid antigen testing at each school building. Optional rapid testing will be available on a weekly basis to all staff and students. COVID-19 testing for students at a building will occur only with permission of parent or guardian.

If you're sick, STAY HOME – Staff and students who have COVID-19 symptoms or cold/flu-like symptoms (runny nose, cough, sore throat, headache, fever, body aches, vomiting/diarrhea) should NOT attend school. As noted below, staff or students exhibiting these symptoms should stay home and obtain a PCR test. PCR testing is available in Sitka at SEARHC (COVID hotline 907-966-8799).

The following is a list of different, potential COVID-19 situations and return-to-school procedures for this school year.

1) **POSTIVE COVID-19 TEST**

- a. **Positive Antigen Rapid Test** – Testing positive on a rapid antigen test means that students or staff should isolate and obtain a PCR test to confirm their positive status. PCR testing is available in Sitka at SEARHC (COVID hotline 907-966-8799).
- b. **Positive PCR test** – Staff or students who test positive for COVID-19 on a PCR test should isolate for at least 10 days. The total length of quarantine will be determined by Public Health.

2) **COVID-LIKE SYMPTOMS** (regardless of vaccination status)

- a. **Symptoms at home** – Staff or students who start experiencing cold- or flu-like symptoms should remain home from school, isolate as much as possible, and should obtain a PCR test. These tests are available in Sitka through SEARHC. Parents should contact the school's front office to notify the school if a student is out sick. **Students and staff can return to in-person instruction with a negative PCR test result and after being symptom-free for 24 hours.** Parents should send a copy of the negative test result to their building principal. Staff should send their negative test result to their building principal or supervisor.

- b. **Symptoms at school** – Staff or students who start having cold- or flu-like symptoms at school should go to the front office and follow isolation procedures. Arrangements will be made for the student to return home. Students should be picked up as soon as possible. Students and staff can return to in-person learning with a negative PCR test and after being symptom-free for 24 hours, as described above.
- c. **COVID-like symptoms but NO testing** – Staff or students who have COVID-like symptoms and **choose NOT to test will need to quarantine for 10 days** and be symptom-free prior to returning to in-person instruction.

3) **CLOSE CONTACT OF POSITIVE CASE**

- a. Parents will be notified by their principal or classroom teacher that their student has been a close contact of a confirmed positive case. Students identified as close contacts will go home with their tablets/laptops. The school and teacher, in consultation with the student and parent, will collaborate on assignments needed while the student is not in-person. Students can return to in-person learning on Day 4 with a rapid antigen test at the building front office or with a negative result for a PCR test on Day 4. (Day 1 will be the date of last exposure with the identified positive case.)
- b. If a staff member or student is identified by Public Health as a close contact of a positive case outside school, this should be communicated to the principal or front office. Vaccinated staff who are symptom-free are able to work from their classrooms in this situation; however, testing on Day 4 after possible exposure is required. Students should remain home until Day 4 after exposure then test at the front office of their school. Students can return to in-person learning with a negative rapid test.
- c. If a student is a close contact of a positive family member in their home and **are not able to quarantine separately** from that positive family member, they should test four days after the family member completes their 10-day isolation.
- d. Any student or staff member who is identified as a close contact of a COVID-19 positive individual and chooses NOT to test will need to quarantine for 10 days prior to returning to in-person instruction.

4) **EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

- a. Middle-school and high-school students who participate in sports and extra-curricular activities will be required to test once a week in season (or more frequently based on ASAA policies). Testing is required prior to travel.

5) **OPTIONAL WEEKLY COVID-19 TESTING**

- a. Staff and students will have the option to test on a weekly basis in each building. Email Chris Voron (voronc@sitkaschools.org) to notify the district that you are interested in participating in weekly testing, or complete the testing form at your school's front office. Staff or students can opt in to testing at any time during the school year.

6) **TRAVEL PROCEDURES**

- a. Vaccinated staff and students are not required to quarantine after travel but are **recommended to test** in the building on Day 4 after travel.
- b. Unvaccinated staff and students **should quarantine for three days after travel, test in the building using a rapid test on Day 4,** and can return to in-person learning if that test is negative.