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KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

More KPBSD schools shift to 100% Remote Learning

13 SOUTHERN KENAI PENINSULA SCHOOLS ADDED TO LIST OF KPBSD SCHOOLS OPERATING IN HIGH COVID-19 RISK (RED)

Soldotna, October 19, 2020—The school district leadership and KPBSD Medical Advisory Team reviewed the [high positive case count COVID-19 cases](#) in the Southern Kenai Peninsula, the rising 7-Day trend, information from public health and DHSS, and determined the data merits immediate action for an additional 13 KPBSD schools.

Therefore, Southern Kenai Peninsula schools will shift to 100% Remote Learning immediately, beginning Tuesday, October 20, 2020.

The 100% Remote Learning in the Southern Kenai Peninsula will be for a minimum of this week. We know that Alaska is experiencing an accelerated phase of COVID-19 spread. Several positive cases are reported each week that are connected with KPBSD schools, and contact tracing takes place for every positive staff or student COVID-19 case, to help keep further exposure from occurring.

Thirteen Southern Kenai Peninsula Schools operating in High Risk (Red) Status

KPBSD schools in Nanwalek, Port Graham, and Susan B. English in Seldovia are considered individually, and remain open to onsite at-school learning at this time.

- Chapman School
- Fireweed Academy
- Homer Flex School
- Homer High School
- Homer Middle School
- Kachemak Selo School
- McNeil Canyon Elementary School
- Nikolaevsk School
- Ninilchik School
- Paul Banks Elementary School
- Razdolna School
- Voznesenka School
- West Homer Elementary School

What to know during 100% Remote Learning in COVID-19 High Risk

- Schools will contact their families to give further instructions, call your school if you have questions about materials, packets, or other issues

KPBSD: ONE DISTRICT, FORTY-TWO DIVERSE SCHOOLS

The mission of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District is to empower all learners to positively shape their futures.
ANCHOR POINT COOPER LANDING HOMER HOPE KACHEMAK SELO KENAI MOOSE PASS NANWALEK NIKISKI NIKOLAEVSK NINILCHIK PORT GRAHAM
RAZDOLNA SELDOVIA SEWARD SOLDOTNA STERLING TUSTUMENA TYONEK VOZNESENKA

FOR RELEASE OCTOBER 19, 2020

1 OF 3

- Get-It and Go Meals are free for all students during 100% Remote Learning, and can be picked up daily at school between 12:00–1:00
- Pre-K, Kindergarten, and Special Education Intensive Needs students may still attend school onsite-at-school during 100% Remote Learning, based on the 2020 SmartStart Plan. Schools will contact these families directly

Superintendent John O'Brien said, *"The decision to operate Southern Kenai Peninsula schools in High COVID-19 risk, with 100% Remote Learning, is not only to address concerns for the safety and wellbeing of our staff and students, but as a school district we play an important role to help our communities mitigate positive COVID-19 spread. By shifting to 100% Remote Learning during periods of high community spread, we lessen the number of large groups of people in one location. Even with our mitigation plans, we have seen an exponential growth of positive cases in our schools this past week. My hope is that we can slow the spread, and reopen schools as soon as is safely possible. I sincerely apologize for the strain this puts on families, students, staff, and businesses in an already stressful pandemic."*

***Decision Basis about operations in risk levels**

To determine if schools should operate in 100% Remote Learning, or offer options for 100% Remote Learning and onsite at-school learning, district leadership and the KPBSD Medical Advisory Team:

- Analyze the [14-Day positive COVID-19 case counts](#)
- Analyze the 7-Day positivity trend
- Consult with public health contact tracing knowledge, and local medical providers
- Review the KPBSD [COVID-19 Positive Case in a School Decision Matrix](#)

Based on this analysis and scientific data, the medical advisory team watches positive cases closely, types of community spread, and offers informed insights about safely operating schools during a pandemic.

What you can do

We urge Alaskans to exercise caution and [take the following steps to help prevent the spread of COVID-19:](#)

- Do the 3 W's: Wear a mask, watch your distance and wash your hands
- Avoid the 3 C's: Crowded places, close contact settings and confined or enclosed spaces. Keep contacts limited and social circles small. Avoid indoor gatherings
- Don't ride in cars with people who are not in your household bubble
- Limit your errands and outings
- Watch out for COVID-19 symptoms. Get tested even if you have just one symptom or mild symptoms
- Don't be around others if you are not feeling well. Stay home and isolate immediately
- If you test positive, let close contacts know so they can protect others
- Quarantine quickly if you are exposed to COVID-19, for a full 14 days

Helpful Links

[KPBSD COVID-19 Hub](#) or covid19.kpbsd.org

[KPBSD COVID-19 risk level dashboard](#)

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Kenai Peninsula Borough School District



100% Remote ALERT
Southern Peninsula Schools

100% REMOTE LEARNING
begins Tuesday,
October 20, 2020
for 13 KPBSD schools in the
Southern Kenai Peninsula,
due to high COVID-19
risk levels

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Free Get-It-And-Go Meals for students
can be picked up daily between
12:00-1:00 at schools.
Contact your school with questions &
details about 100% Remote Learning

www.KPBSD.org | 907-714-8888 | covid19.kpbsd.org

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3 OF 3