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**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

## NEWS RELEASE

### ***High COVID-19 cases cause 34 KPBSD schools to continue 100% remote learning for most students***

**Soldotna, November 24, 2020—Kenai Peninsula Borough School District COVID-19 update due to continued COVID-19 community contagion throughout the Kenai Peninsula:**

- A SmartStart plan update so more students could attend school onsite during High Risk operations will be presented to the KPBSD Board of Education on December 7, 2020
- **KPBSD Grades 1-12:** 100% Remote Learning from home will continue through Friday, December 18, 2020
- **KPBSD Pre-K, Kindergarten, and Special Education Intensive Needs** learners may again return to onsite learning at school beginning Wednesday, December 2, 2020, with greater safety plans in place\*
  - The 100% Remote Learning continues for these groups, through December 1, 2020
  - Title-I Pre-K will only be offered onsite at school beginning December 2, 2020
- Six small schools continue to be open to onsite at school learning in low-risk operations, but could shift to 100% Remote Learning at any time based on COVID-19 risk in the community
- *Ongoing emphasis:* keep staff healthy and out of 14-Day Quarantine, so school instruction and operations can continue uninterrupted

#### **What you can do**

#### ***Help bring children back to school and resume sports***

Leading into the Thanksgiving holiday, [High COVID-19 Risk](#) continues in most Kenai Peninsula communities, with an acceleration of people becoming ill occurring. Exposure and transmission is happening in family and friend groups, workplace break rooms, and everyday interactions. Local health care capacity and operations of essential services are closely monitored. Everyone knows the tools to prevent COVID-19 spread, so now is the time to use the tools—especially to wear a mask, physically distance, keep your bubble very small. **Limit your actions to plank the curve and shift the trend downwards, so schools can reopen to the onsite at-school learning option for all grades.**

**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 NOVEMBER 24, 2020**

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## November Timeline Review

- KPBSD shifted to 100% Remote Learning for *all* students following Governor Dunleavy's November 12, 2020, plea to hunker down through November and bend the rise of positive COVID-19 back down in Alaska
- On November 24, 2020, after assessment of positive cases, health care capacity, and input from the KPBSD medical advisory board, Remote Learning from home is extended for KPBSD 1-12 Grades, through December 18, 2020
- Winter break for most KPBSD schools is December 18-January 4, 2021 ([school calendars](#))
- Data demonstrates that schools can be safe when mitigation plans are always followed, and class sizes are small. Plans continue to bring more students back to school during High Risk operations

## Links

- [KPBSD 21 Day Thankful Invite](#) with free Sources of Strength Thankfulness journal download
- [DHSS COVID-19 resources](#) "Cases are rapidly accelerating. The current alert level is high across all regions."
- [KPBSD COVID-19 risk level dashboard](#)
- [KPBSD COVID-19 Hub](#) or [covid19.kpbsd.org](#)
- Helpful new flyer: [What to Do if You've Been Exposed to COVID-19: put your quarantine plan into action](#)

## \*Specific information for Pre-K, Kindergarten, and Special Education Intensive Needs learners

To keep schools safe and the COVID-19 transmission level low in school, these actions must be followed with fidelity at all times:

- **NEW: Staff and all students (PreK and older) must wear a mask at all times**
- **Mitigation plans at school sites need to be implemented with fidelity**
  - Cohorts need to be fixed groups, and maintained at all times
  - 6' physical distancing with staff-to-staff needs to occur at all times, especially in break rooms and common areas. This is not time to relax this directive; physical distance will keep staff healthy in school, and minimize in-school exposure or transmission

School staff will contact Pre-K, K, and Intensive Needs families to talk about school resuming onsite again on December 2, 2020. The COVID-19 risk level remains very high with widespread community transmission, so individual family circumstances may require a family to choose to continue with 100% Remote Learning Note: an immediate shift to 100% Remote could occur at any time if a positive case, or transmission at school occurs, and requires 14-Day Quarantine, staffing shortage, or school closure.

## 100% Remote Learning

**Central Peninsula Schools** *Central Kenai Peninsula includes Kasilof to Sterling, extending through Kenai, Nikiski, Soldotna, and DHSS "other north" communities. Cooper Landing is not included in the 17 Central Peninsula schools:*

- |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| • Aurora Borealis Charter School | • Mountain View Elementary School      |
| • Kaleidoscope Charter School    | • Nikiski Middle-High School           |
| • K-Beach Elementary School      | • Nikiski North Star Elementary School |
| • Kenai Alternative School       | • Redoubt Elementary School            |
| • Kenai Central High School      | • River City Academy                   |
| • Kenai Middle School            | • Skyview Middle School                |

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- Soldotna Elementary School
- Soldotna High School
- Soldotna Montessori Charter School

- Sterling Elementary School
- Other North: Tustumena Elementary School

#### **Eastern Kenai Peninsula Schools**

- Moose Pass School
- Seward High School

- Seward Middle School
- William H. Seward Elementary

#### **Southern Kenai Peninsula Schools**

- 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

#### **Small schools are open to onsite learning in low risk**

Six small KPBSD schools in Cooper Landing, Hope, Nanwalek, Port Graham, Seldovia, and Tebughna will also continue to operate in low COVID-19 risk, and offer both 100% Remote and onsite-at-school learning options. A shift to 100% Remote Learning could happen at any time if there is positive COVID-19 in these communities.

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