



## 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.
- c. **Positive PCR test within 90 days** – Per guidance from Public Health and the CDC, “A positive NAAT diagnostic test [PCR test] should not be repeated within 90 days, because people may continue to have detectable [viral] RNA after risk of transmission has passed.”

### 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 are encouraged 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 (see SSD Travel Protocols for more information)**

- 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.
- c. If you have received a positive NAAT [PCR] diagnostic test within 90 days of travel and have completed your quarantine as determined by Public Health, please check with your school's front office to determine your return to in-person learning.