



**SCHOOL UPDATE
FROM SUPERINTENDENT HANKINS**

May 10, 2021

Dear parents, students, and the entire LKSD learning community,

Last week, Assistant Superintendent Ed Pekar and I visited staff and students in Quinhagak. We are so pleased with the progress made in Quinhagak and all other LKSD schools with in-person instruction, targeted interventions to address unfinished learning, and the use of multi-layered mitigation strategies to keep everyone safe.

Planning for Full In-Person Learning for the 2021-2022 School Year

LKSD has implemented the updated school guidance provided by YKHC at the end of April. This includes reducing physical distancing from 6ft to 3ft, as well as updating our layered mitigation strategies and best practices around screening, testing, and vaccinations. Taking these steps, along with the good news surrounding the continuing decline of COVID-19 cases in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, will help us increase capacity across all school sites. Working together to bring and keep our COVID-19 numbers down will allow us to return to full, in-person learning in August. The District's plan for safe return to in-person instruction will be available prior to the June 3rd LKSD Board meeting.

Looking ahead to the summer, and keeping in mind all the necessary mitigation efforts, we are actively planning for in-person summer learning and enrichment opportunities to help support our students' academics as well as social-emotional health and well-being.

Return of Athletics

The LKSD Board of Education voted on April 29th to open student activities to both indoor and outdoor practices as well as in- and out-of-region travel. LKSD is utilizing recommended "cohorting" of student-athletes whenever possible to help reduce risk of transmission. This, coupled with our strict mitigation strategies, including regular testing and masking, will be adhered to at all times and across all competitions to ensure the safety of all involved.

Vaccinations

I am encouraged by the rate of vaccinations across the Delta – approximately 65 percent of the eligible population has been vaccinated. Vaccinations are readily available to everyone who is eligible, which right now is 16 and up. Higher vaccination rates give us greater protection against COVID-19; the vaccine is highly effective in preventing severe illness and death.

Today, the Food and Drug Administration approved the use of the COVID-19 vaccine for 12–15-year-olds. This allows for more students to get vaccinated before school starts in the fall. **All parents of youth ages 12-15 are encouraged to pre-register their child / children online at <https://tinyurl.com/y7reeyst> or by calling YKHC at 1-800-478-6599 to help expedite the process.**

Congratulations Graduates

A handful of LKSD sites celebrated high school graduations this past weekend, with the remainder of our schools celebrating this week. Congratulations to all LKSD graduates and thank you to the families of our graduates for your support of LKSD students in reaching this milestone!

Sincerely,

Kimberly Hankins
Superintendent