



January 7, 2022

Hello Staff, Students, and Parents of the Wrangell Public School District,

Welcome to 2022!! We are excited to have the students back in classrooms and the continuation of education after a much needed break. I hope that you had the opportunity to get some much needed relaxation after the busy and complicated 2021 that we just experienced. We look forward to working with our educational community in 2022 to have the educational experiences that Wrangell Public Schools are proud of!

As you may have seen Wrangell as a community is once again in the middle of an uptick of COVID cases that have been spreading rapidly and affecting or disrupting many of the opportunities that we have as a community. We also have a non-COVID cold that is affecting our families in recent weeks to add to COVID illnesses. We are working very hard to keep our doors open for students every day and I want to publicly thank each of our staff, parents, and students for working to keep our schools open and learning happening!

You may be aware that recently the CDC has updated the guidance for COVID-19 Isolations and Quarantines. Wrangell Public Schools has updated the current WPS Mitigation Plan to reflect these changes as clearly as possible to help our educational community understand how it will affect our students and staff. The regulations have changed in a number of ways and change the process and requirements on returning to work/school so it is important to review the new plan: <https://www.wpsd.us/domain/267>

The administrative staff have worked hard to make the updated mitigation plan work for the current and ongoing semester and will continue to review, listen, and revise the plan as we grow in our knowledge and understanding so that we can keep our students on the path to great things in their future.

Notable Changes:

If anyone tests **POSITIVE** for the COVID-19 (even with a home test) they should **Isolate** for at least **5** days and can return to school on day 6 **if symptom free for at least 24 hours.**

If a Close Contact:

Vaccinated and Boosted Adults, and Students that are Fully Vaccinated do not need to Quarantine but should monitor for symptoms and are encouraged to test 3-5 days after exposure.

Vaccinated Adults (18+) who became fully vaccinated more than 6 months ago (Moderna/Pfizer) or 2 months ago (J&J) AND have not gotten a booster need to Quarantine for 5 days **after last contact with a positive person** and return on day 6.

All others: Need to Quarantine for no less than 5 days and can return on day 6 with a negative test result.

Note: If Student/Staff provide **medical documentation** of Covid+ recovery in the previous 3 months (90 Days) to the school, ***they will not need to quarantine when he/she is a close contact.***

We want to work together to stop the recent spike in cases and to keep our doors and classrooms open. We depend on the help of our education community to follow the guidelines, to take care of those around us, and minimize the impact on our community.

I want to thank everyone for working hard on keeping Wrangell safe and healthy!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bill Burr', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bill Burr
Superintendent of Wrangell Public Schools