Work Session

Tuesday, May 25, 2021 5:30 PM
NBMHS RC/Zoom, 2920 3.5 Nome-Teller Hwy, Nome, Alaska 99762

A. **Call to Order**
B. **Items for Discussion**
1. Review of Updated Smart Start Plan Draft
C. **Upcoming Events:**
   - **Tuesday, June 8, Regular Meeting, 5:30 pm, NBMHS RC/Zoom**
   - **Tuesday, June 22, Work Session, 5:30 pm, NBMHS RC/Zoom**
D. **Adjournment**

Nome Public Schools

American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act

Mitigation Plan

[Last Updated]

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Per the American Rescue Plan Act guidelines, the focus for the 2021-2022 school year is keeping schools open and students engaged in in-person instruction. The following guidelines have been developed in consultation with the Nome Public Schools' Health Advisory Team consisting of medical leadership from Norton Sound Health Corporation and the local Public Health office, as well as guidance from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED), the Department of Health and Human Services (DHSS) and the latest CDC guidelines. This Plan will be reviewed and revised as necessary with continued consultation with the previously noted health professionals no later than every six months, or sooner if guidance/guidelines necessitate changes.

Guiding Principles:

- Prioritize safety of students and staff
- Keep students in school engaged in in-person learning
- Ensure equitable access to education for all students

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Contact Information

District Information

Name of District: Nome Public Schools

District Point of Contact Name: Jamie Burgess, Superintendent

Address (Street, City, State, Zip)**:** P.O. Box 131, Nome AK 99762

Phone: 907-443-2231 **Fax:** 907-443-5144 **Email:** jburgess@nomeschools.org

Assurance Agreement for ARP Act Mitigation Plan

The district assures either:

a) It will, within 30 days of receiving ARP ESSER funds, develop and make publicly available on the district's website a mitigation plan for the safe return and/or continuation of in-person instruction and continuity of services as required in section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP and in the U.S. Department of Education's Interim Final Requirements, **or**

b) It developed and made publicly available on the district's website such a mitigation plan that meets statutory requirements before the enactment of the ARP Act that meets -federal requirements. (The ARP Act was enacted on March 11, 2021)

The district assures that:

a) It will periodically review and revise its mitigation plan, as appropriate, no less frequently than every six months for the duration of the ARP ESSER grant period (i.e., through September 30, 2023); and

b) It will seek public input, and take such input into account, on (1) whether revisions are necessary and, if so, (2) the proposed revisions to the mitigation plan.

Before making the mitigation plan publicly available, the district **must seek public comment on the mitigation plan** and take such comments into account in the development of the plan.

Name of Superintendent: Jamie Burgess

Signature: _____

Date: [MM/DD/YYYY]

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Mitigation Plan

Plan Components

Districts must implement, to the greatest extent practicable, prevention and mitigation policies in line with the most up-to-date guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the reopening and operation of school facilities to effectively maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff. Describe the extent to which the district adopted policies and a description of such policies on each of the strategies listed below:

1. Masks

- Masks are required to be worn by students and staff in any school where the percentage of vaccinated persons < 80%.
- Masks should meet the CDC guidelines.
- Masks may be removed while individuals are eating.
- In a school where the percentage of vaccinated students >80%, students may be asked to where a mask if they are displaying symptoms of COVID-19 until they can be picked up by parents and tested.
- The District will keep an adequate supply of disposable and cloth masks on hand to ensure all students and staff have access to a clean, dry mask as needed.
- Masks will be worn by all students on school buses to schools where the percentage of vaccinated persons < 80%. School bus drivers will have an adequate supply of disposable masks to ensure every child entering the bus has one to wear.

2. Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/pods)

The following guidelines will apply in any school where the percentage of vaccinated persons < 80%.

- Students will be seated 3 feet from each other as much as the classroom space makes feasible.
- Elementary students will remain with their class at all times; during recess, lunch, specials, etc. Mixing of classes will be avoided.
- Middle/high school students will be cohorted in classes as much as feasible.
- Cafeteria seating arrangements will keep students a minimum of 3 feet from each other and in lunch cohorts; plexiglass dividers will be used when feasible.
- Physical distancing between teachers and other staff and students will be observed during the classroom and in other settings.
- Plexiglass dividers will be used if group work or close work with teachers and students is necessary.
- Staff will not congregate in workrooms or offices.
- Faculty meetings will allow for a minimum of 3 feet distance between participants.
- Student assemblies will require seating a minimum of 3 feet distance between students.

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3. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

These guidelines will apply regardless of vaccination percentages at any school.

- Hand sanitizer dispensers will be located outside of each classroom and in common areas such as the cafeteria, gym and front office.
- Elementary students will wash their hands before lunch and after recess, and several times throughout the school day.
- Middle/high school students will be encouraged to wash their hands before/after lunch and several times throughout the school day.
- All students and staff will be taught proper protocols for sneezing/coughing to minimize respiratory droplets and asked to wash hands or be offered hand sanitizer immediately afterwards.

4. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

- Carpet shampooers and vacuums are being replaced or repaired to ensure they are in good working condition
- Robotic vacuums are being deployed in several years to reduce pressure on custodial staff and allow them to concentrate on additional cleaning procedures.
- Sanitizing wipes will be available in classrooms to wipe down desks, tables, door handles, light switches, and common materials.
- Investments are being made in repairing and upgrading the outdated HVAC systems in all three school buildings to ensure proper ventilation in response to conditions.
- High quality air filters for ventilation system are being purchased and replaced a minimum of every six months per manufacturer's recommendations.
- Every classroom has a HEPA air filtration unit; filters are replaced every 3-6 months.

5. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments

- Nome Public Schools has established a strong working relationship with the Norton Sound Health Corporation and Public Health's COVID response teams, ensuring that contact tracing is conducted in a cooperative manner between agencies in a rapid fashion, and that needed isolation and quarantine of infected individuals and close contacts occurs quickly to minimize spread.
- A protocol for contact from NSHC/Public Health in the event of a case involving a student or staff member is in place, including appropriate notification to staff and community.

6. Diagnostic and screening testing

- Norton Sound Health Corporation has set up a COVID Testing Center in a centrally-located facility in the middle of town; testing is available 7 days a week from 8am – 5pm and can also be conducted through the emergency room as needed.
- Screening tests are offered at school sites by Norton Sound testing teams in the event of a case involving a student or staff member present at school during their infectious period; protocols for parent permission are in place for students under the age of 18.

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- Nome Public Schools follows the advice of the Health Advisory Team with respect to making recommendations to staff and families regarding testing.
- Vaccinated individuals are not required to test regularly, but may be asked to participate voluntarily in screening testing if an outbreak of cases in the school population occurs.
- Nome Public Schools asks staff and students to follow City of Nome guidelines regarding testing and/or quarantine after travel outside of the community.
- Testing during athletic seasons: weekly for athletes during practice times and before/after traveling to meets/games.

7. Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible

- Nome Public Schools strongly encourages all eligible students and staff to become vaccinated.
- Norton Sound Health Corporation vaccination teams will set up periodic vaccination clinics at school sites; protocols are in place for parent permission. Unvaccinated staff may participate in these clinics if they wish.
- Vaccination opportunities are located throughout the community; at the post office, at the hospital, and other sites – these are regular and easily accessible to all residents.
- Nome currently has a high vaccination rate for eligible persons; currently around 70% of eligible and 50+ of all residents.

8. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies

- Special Education staff will ensure that appropriate accommodations are made for students regarding mitigation protocols per their Individual Education Plans, while ensuring that students are as safe as possible. These may include: face shields in place of masks, adjusting seating arrangements, a desk with a plexiglass divider, etc.
- IEP changes/addenda will be created as needed by the IEP team to ensure students have full access to all educational opportunities while maintaining a safe and healthy environment for all students.

Continuity of Services

Describe how the district will ensure continuity of services including, but not limited to, services to address students' academic needs, as well as the social, emotional, mental health, and other needs of students and staff (e.g., student health and food service).

The District's focus will be on continuing in-person schooling during the pandemic by implementing mitigation protocols and working closely with the Health Advisory Team to quickly address any cases in students or staff, utilize testing to identify cases early, and ensure plentiful and accessible opportunities for vaccination are available to students and staff.

Academic needs will be identified for individual students and schoolwide through the use of low-stakes academic assessments such as MAP (Measures of Academic Progress), BAS (Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System), and other similar tests. Academic needs identified in this manner will be addressed by a combination of the following: adjustment of regular classroom curriculum to address

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learning gaps, targeted tutoring before/after school, pull-out interventions, in-class interventions, after-school programs, summer credit recovery, summer enrichment programs.

Social/emotional health of students will be addressed through the District's SEL programs, including Second Step and Connected and Respected, as well as the District-wide Kagan cooperative learning initiative, which includes embedded social/emotional activities. Social/emotional health of staff will be addressed through opportunities for collaboration, socialization, wellness (massages, physical activities), etc. Mental health needs of students are addressed by the school counselors in conjunction with Behavioral Health Services/Norton Sound Health Corporation. Norton Sound Health Corporation offers full-service medical/dental/vision services to community members, which are easily accessible through the hospital's central location in the City of Nome.

Nome Public Schools participate in the National School Lunch Program and is qualified for the Community Eligibility Program, ensuring all students have access to free breakfast and lunch. The District also offers weekend meals to all students to ensure nutrition needs are addressed. Snacks are offered during after school tutoring and academic programs, and summer programs include free lunch for students as well.

In the event students are placed in quarantine or isolation, the District delivers classwork directly to student homes; the assignments are also available through Google Classroom for students with good access to internet. In the event of a long-term COVID-related absence from school, Chromebooks are available for checkout for students in grades 6 and up. A school staff member checks in regularly with all students in quarantine/isolation, and Zoom tutoring/class meetings are offered for those with good access to internet. High-speed high bandwidth internet connections are very expensive in Nome, and the district has shared all available information regarding discounted internet and/or free or low-cost devices to students. Local tribal entities also continue to provide internet assistance and/or devices to their enrolled members.

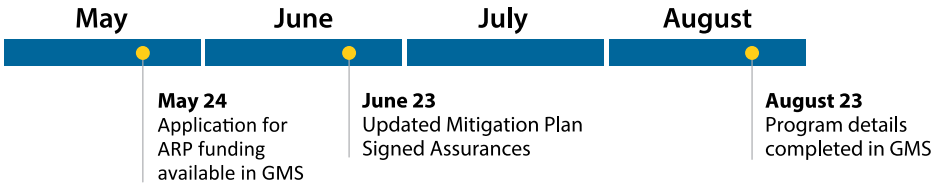
Periodic Review

Describe how the district will periodically review and revise its mitigation plan, as appropriate, including a description of how the district will seek public input and take such input into account on (1) whether revisions are necessary and, if so, (2) the proposed revisions to the plan. Important Note: The district must review its mitigation plan no less frequently than every six months for the duration of the ARP ESSER grant period (i.e., through September 30, 2023).

The District will review the mitigation plan a minimum of every six months (or sooner if circumstances dictate). The District will review the latest guidance from the Alaska Department of Health and Human Services, the CDC and the Department of Education and Early Development, and consult with its Health Advisory Team. Any revisions will be reviewed with the District's Leadership Team (consisting of all principals and directors), and subsequently shared with local stakeholders for input before the updates are finalized. Avenues for input will include survey instruments, opportunities for written input via email, social media, etc., and Board of Education Work Sessions and Regular Meetings.

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District ARP Plan Milestones



Updated Mitigation Policies

Posted on district website by June 23, 2021.

Within 30 days after receiving ARP ESSER III funds, districts will develop and make publicly available on the district website the plan for safe return to in-person instruction.

- Adopted policies based on consultation with Federal, State, and **local** health officials which include a description for-
  - Masks
  - Physical distancing
  - Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
  - Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation
  - Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State local, territorial, or Tribal health departments
  - Diagnostic and screening tests
  - Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible
  - Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies

  Note: To the greatest extent practicable, districts should consider prevention and mitigation policies inline with the most up-to-date guidance from the CDC while taking into consideration unique local health mandates.
- Description of how the district will ensure continuity of services including, but not limited to, services to address student's academic needs and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services.
- Periodic review of the plan no less frequently than every six months for the duration of the ARP ESSER III grant period.
- Upload the signed assurances to the Assurance Related Document page in the COVID Relief Application in GMS. Include: DUNS Number, SAM Expiration Date, and Suspension and the Debarment Question.

Program Details Completed in GMS

Uploaded by August 23, 2021

Within 90 days of receiving ARP ESSER Funds, districts will complete an ARP ESSER Plan. District requirements have been incorporated into the GMS application for ARP ESSER III funds.

Section A: District Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

A.1. Describe how the district developed the plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. Provide how the district sought public comment on the plan and took such comments into account in the development of the plan. Include which stakeholders were involved in the development of the plan.

A.2. Provide the link to district's updated Mitigation Policies.

Section B: Stakeholder Consultation

B.1. Describe how, in the planning for the use of ESSER III funds, the district provided opportunities for input and engaged in meaningful consultation with stakeholders including, but not limited to: students; families; school and district administrators (including special education administrators); teachers, principals, school leaders, other educators, school staff, and their unions; Tribes; and other stakeholders representing the interests of children with disabilities, English learners, children experiencing homelessness, children and youth in foster care, migratory children, children who are incarcerated, and other underserved students.

Section C: Identifying Needs

C.1. Describe the extent of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on student learning and student well-being, including identifying the groups of students most impacted by the pandemic.

Section D: Coordination of Funds

D.1. Describe how the district will coordinate with other federal education funding (i.e., other federal COVID Relief funding, ESEA, IDEA, CTE, and Child Nutrition).

Section E: Use of Funds

E.1. Describe how the funds will be used to implement prevention and mitigation strategies that are, to the greatest extent practicable, in line with the most recent CDC guidance, in order to continuously and safely operate schools for in-person learning.

E.2. Describe how the district will use the funds it reserves under section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act (totaling not less than 20 percent of the LEA's total allocation of ESSER III funds) to address the academic impact of lost instructional time through the implementation of evidence-based interventions, such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive afterschool programs, or extended school year programs.

E.3. Describe how the district will use funds to meet students' social, emotional, and academic needs, including through summer enrichment programming and other evidence-based interventions, and how they advance equity for underserved students.

E.4. If applicable, describe how the district will use funds to sustain and support access to early childhood education programs.

Section F: Evaluation

F.1. Describe how the district will evaluate the level of implementation and effectiveness of programs funded.

Section G: General Education Provision Act (GEPA)

G.1. Describe how the district will comply with the requirements of Section 427 of GEPA, 20 U.S.C 1228a. The description must include information on the steps the district proposes to take to permit students, teachers, and other program beneficiaries to overcome barriers (including barriers based on gender, race, color, national origin, disability, and age) that impede access to, or participation in, the program.