



PRESS RELEASE

**UPDATE
9-04-2020**

On Wednesday, September 2, LKSD Administration met with YKHC to discuss the status of the COVID-19 pandemic in Bethel. As a result of this meeting, and in alignment with recommendations made by YKHC, beginning Tuesday, September 8, LKSD plans to open Bethel schools at the medium-risk level. This will offer a blend of in-person and remote learning (hybrid model) or parent choice for full-time remote learning.

Bethel families can expect continued communication from their child's school regarding this shift to the hybrid model. Families can also expect direct communication from the District Office regarding student transportation.

As Bethel schools move to a hybrid model of in-person learning it's critical that the community of Bethel continues to work together to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. All Bethel schools will follow the LKSD Smart Start plan for medium risk, which includes but is not limited to: social distancing of six feet, cohort classes of no more than 12 students, daily health screenings of students and staff, use of PPE including face coverings/masks for everyone in the school over the age of 2 who can safely wear a face covering per CDC guidance, and robust cleaning and sanitation protocols.

The LKSD Smart Start plan is available on the LKSD website at: https://www.lksd.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_98428/File/1.Home/Smart%20Start%20Documents/LKSD%20SMART%20START%202020%20PDF%20.pdf. Please check with your child's school for access to their school-specific Smart Start plan.

Please keep in mind that LKSD remains in close communication with YKHC regarding the status of the COVID-19 pandemic in the YK Delta. Therefore, recommendations may change throughout the school year as needed. Thank you for your understanding as we navigate this difficult time together.

8-18-2020

On Monday, August 17, LKSD Administration met with YKHC to discuss the status of the COVID-19 pandemic in Bethel following a recent increase in cases. As a result of this meeting and with

the support of YKHC, LKSD Administration made the decision to open all Bethel schools on August 24 with remote learning only.

This decision was made out of an abundance of caution to protect our students, staff, and community. While YKHC is confident there is not yet community spread of COVID-19 in Bethel at this time, this approach provides the community more time to move out of the infectivity period caused by the recent spike in cases.

LKSD and YKHC officials will continue to meet regularly in the coming weeks. LKSD's goal is to open Bethel schools at the medium-risk level, which offers a blend of in-person and remote learning or parent choice for full-time remote learning, beginning Tuesday, September 8. Please keep in mind, this date is dependent upon the progression of COVID-19 in Bethel in the coming weeks.

We know this is a difficult time for students, families, and teachers. Although we may remain physically distant for the time being, we are all working together as a community to keep one another healthy and safe during this challenging time.

Bethel families can expect direct communication from their child's school regarding this shift to remote learning.

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