

Layered COVID Protection at UAS

Updated: 8/10/2021

UAS has implemented many safety and mitigation protocols to prevent the spread of COVID-19. These are detailed in the mitigation plans on the UAS website:

<https://uas.alaska.edu/pub/covidstatus>

Our mitigation measures are informed by the latest guidance from the CDC. The CDC encourages higher education institutions to use a “layered” strategy that combines multiple prevention measures rather than relying on any single thing. The CDC also encourages us to consider the level of vaccination in the larger community and the amount of infection.

Southeast Alaskan communities are highly vaccinated, and vaccination is a requirement for our residential students. Not everyone can be vaccinated, however, so we still need other measures.

At UAS we:

- Strongly encourage vaccination, and require it for our residential students
- Restrict access to the campus for unvaccinated travelers, and anyone who is symptomatic
- Require masking for both vaccinated and unvaccinated students on campus
- Encourage physical distancing in classrooms and hallways
- Provide cleaning supplies and encourage good hygiene
- Provide good ventilation indoors and encourage outdoor gathering and activities

These measures exceed CDC recommendations. We maintain these measures to ensure that our campuses remain safe and in recognition that no single measures will always be practicable.

Where we are challenged to maintain a measure, the others compensate. Where we cannot consistently maintain distancing, we can compensate with masking and hygiene (and other measures). Where masking is a challenge (e.g. in dining areas), ventilation and distancing can be used to compensate.