

March 9, 2020

Dear Students, Families, and Staff,

Over the weekend, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) confirmed several new presumptive cases of COVID-19.

The unfortunate reality is that COVID-19 is in our county. Updated guidance from OHA is that closing schools may not be an effective method for stopping the spread of the virus. This is the same stance currently being taken by many school districts in other communities around the country and around the world.

How can I avoid getting the novel coronavirus (COVID-19)?

Right now, the risk of getting the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is very low in the U.S.

Steps you can take to prevent the spread of flu and the common cold can also help prevent the spread of the coronavirus.



Wash your hands often with soap and water.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.



Avoid contact with sick people and stay home if you're sick.



Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing.

For more information visit
healthoregon.org/coronavirus



The best prevention is still practicing good health hygiene habits - washing your hands frequently, covering your cough or sneeze, getting plenty of rest and eating a healthy diet - and avoiding contact with people who are symptomatic. The best way to limit spread is staying home when ill.

I know you likely have many questions and we will attempt to answer some of them below. Additional information about COVID-19 can be found at healthoregon.org/coronavirus or by calling 211.

Please know that we are doing everything we can to keep our students and staff healthy and safe. We are continuing sanitation efforts at all schools. Our custodial staff is concentrating efforts on high traffic areas such as health rooms, door knobs, light switches, desks, buses, etc. Thank you for your partnership in that effort.

Respectfully,
Jeff Leo, Superintendent

Frequently-Asked Questions

Q. Why wouldn't you close schools to avoid having so many people in one place?

A. Updated guidance from the Oregon Health Authority is that, because COVID-19 is in the county, closing a school may not be an effective method of stopping the spread of the virus. There is concern that people would not actually remain in their homes for 14 days, and in the case of children, depending on who their caregiver is, having them home may put that person at greater risk of contracting the virus.