

1/5/2021

Hi everyone,

This is an update on students returning to in-person learning in the Yoncalla School District. This includes information for preschool, elementary school, middle school and high school students. With the new information provided by the governor, we will begin to open up our schools to in-person learning with the following schedule:

Pre-School-Begin regular in-person instruction beginning Monday January 11.

Elementary Grades K-3-Begin regular in-person instruction beginning Monday January 11.

Elementary Grades 4-6-Begin regular in-person instruction beginning Tuesday January 19.

Middle School Grades 7-8-Begin regular in-person instruction beginning Tuesday January 19.

High School Grades 9-12-Begin regular in-person instruction beginning Tuesday January 19.

In a letter dated 12/23/2020 to the Director at ODE, Governor Brown stated,

First, it is imperative that Oregon's local school boards, superintendents, educators, and school employees work together toward the resumption of in-person instruction to the greatest extent possible – prioritizing elementary education. To this end, I'm asking for the continued support and partnership of your agencies with local school districts, educators, and communities to ensure these critical decision-making processes continue to be grounded in sound science, public health and safety. It is my hope that more Oregon schools, especially elementary schools, will transition to in-person instruction by February 15, 2021.

Second, following my announced prioritization of educators and school staff for COVID-19 vaccinations this week, I'm directing OHA to partner with schools to access on-site, rapid testing as a safeguard to quickly address symptomatic individuals and those with potential exposure to

COVID-19 to protect students and staff and to minimize quarantine times in public schools that resume in-person instruction. Priority should be given to elementary students, educators, and staff in communities disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.

Third, effective January 1, 2021, Oregon's COVID-19 Health Metrics for Returning to In-Person Instruction will become advisory rather than mandatory. Moving forward, the decision to resume in-person instruction must be made locally, district by district, school by school. In addition to schools continuing to adhere to required health and safety protocols and working in close consultation with their local public health authority in understanding and considering the metrics, teachers, school staff, parents and students should be engaged in this decision-making process to allow schools to make the best choice for their community and their students.

After contacting superintendents from several schools throughout Douglas County, it is apparent that as a county we will be re-opening our schools. As always, this timeline is subject to changes in the state COVID metrics. I will continue to meet with Dr. Dannenhoffer at my weekly superintendents meeting to ensure that we have current information and are moving forward in a safe manner.

Respectfully,

Brian Berry, YSD Superintendent