



HOOD RIVER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Excellence. Every student. Every day.

September 14, 2020

Dear Hood River County School District families,

Welcome to the 2020-21 school year! We have been waiting and preparing for this day since last spring. While we will certainly miss welcoming students into our classrooms and hallways, I know our teachers and staff are excited to welcome your student into their virtual classroom. This year we will be faced with many challenges, but challenges are our best opportunity to learn and grow. Thank you all for the patience, understanding, and partnership this spring and summer. I am filled with optimism and enthusiasm as we embark upon the 2020-21 school year.

In this letter, you will receive an update regarding COVID-19 in Hood River County and the reopening of schools. Also, at the bottom of this letter, you will notice a list of resources available for HRCSD families related to Nutrition Services, Child Care Resources, Health Care Resources, and Technology Support.

Before providing this update, it is important for HRCSD to also recognize the hazardous air quality in the Columbia Gorge area right now. HRCSD encourages students and staff to remain indoors until the air quality improves. **Online and Comprehensive Distance Learning starts today, September 14.**

COVID-19 in Hood River County Update

HRCSD continues to closely monitor COVID-19 data with state and county partners. In the upcoming weeks, we will keep you informed of this data as well as share reopening plans for when the time comes to move from Comprehensive Distance Learning to in-person instruction.

Each week, we meet with the Hood River County Health Department staff to review COVID-19 data as it relates to schools reopening. Hood River County must have less than 10 cases per 100,000 population and less than 5% in test positivity rate in the preceding seven days, for three consecutive weeks. Below are the data for Hood River County over the past four weeks.

Week	Case Count	Cases per 100,000 population	Test positivity rate
8/9/2020	26	102	7.8%
8/16/2020	7	27	4.7%
8/23/2020	11	43	4.8%
8/30/2020	5	20	2.3%

Although Hood River County does not yet meet the metrics to reopen, the county has seen improvement in COVID-19 data, which is encouraging. HRCSD staff and teachers look forward to seeing all of our students on school campuses as soon as it is safe. In the meantime, please continue to wear a face mask, maintain a social distance, stay home if you are sick, and wash your hands frequently.

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Rich Polkinghorn | Superintendent

1011 Eugene Street • Hood River, Oregon 97031 • 541-387-2511

www.hoodriver.k12.or.us



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This district update will be my last weekly message for the immediate future. I plan to move toward a monthly newsletter that will be distributed via email on the first of each month. If there are any major developments or updates, I will provide that information to you sooner.

My best,

Rich Polkinghorn, Superintendent

Resources

[Nutrition Services](#) (e.g. complimentary school meals)

[Transportation](#) (e.g. bus routes)

[Child Care Resources](#) (e.g. ways to find child care)

[Health Care Services](#) (One Community Health School-Based Health Center)

[Technology Support](#) (e.g. HelpDesk contact information; details for technology Q&A sessions)

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