



HOOD RIVER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Excellence. Every student. Every day.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HRCSD remains in distance learning until at least November 5

The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) announced on September 24 that it was suspending one of the three county health metrics required for schools to reopen. This metric suspension impacts several Oregon counties, including Hood River, by opening the door for in-person instruction for students in kindergarten through third grade. Hood River County School District (HRCSD) will continue in comprehensive distance learning (CDL) until at least November 5.

ODE suspended the test positivity metric at the state and local level through the week of September 27. ODE removed this metric temporarily in response to the impact of wildfires on testing for COVID-19. This metric will return in early October. This temporary suspension allows Oregon school districts, including HRCSD, the ability to rely on only the county case rates and case counts. Counties must meet these two health metrics for three consecutive weeks to reopen their schools.

HRCSD meets weekly with Hood River County Health Department to review the county's case rate and compare it to the ODE metrics for school reopening. It is important for the county's health to see a consistent downward trend in case count prior to making any decisions to return to in-person instruction. Furthermore, HRCSD prioritizes stability in students and families' schedules, which is a primary reason it established November 5 as a target date to return to school.

HRCSD will continue to inform its students, families, and community members regarding plans for reopening of schools. The school district's goal is to return students to their school buildings as soon as it is safe for students, staff and the community. For regular HRCSD updates, please visit its website, <https://www.hoodriver.k12.or.us>. The Oregon Health Authority releases school metrics each week on its website, <https://www.oregon.gov/oha>.