



HOOD RIVER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Excellence. Every student. Every day.

October 20, 2020

Dear Hood River County School District families,

After four weeks into the 2020-21 school year, we are quickly approaching the target date of assessing our district’s ability to reopen schools for in-person instruction on Monday, Nov. 9, 2020. Hood River County is on track to meet health metrics set by Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to reopen schools for in-person instruction for students in kindergarten through third grade (K-3). Students in fourth through twelfth grade (4-12) will remain in Comprehensive Distance Learning (CDL) until February 2, 2021, which coincides with the end of Semester 1.

In this letter, you will receive an update regarding COVID-19 in Hood River County and the district’s plan to reopen schools. Finally, you will be invited to share feedback related to your family’s experience with HRCSD’s online learning programs and services.

COVID-19 in Hood River County

HRCSD continues to closely monitor COVID-19 data with state and county partners. Each week, HRCSD meets with the Hood River County Health Department staff to review COVID-19 data as it relates to schools reopening. ODE and OHA set health metrics, which are outlined in [Ready Schools, Safe Learners](#), that must be met for a school district to reopen its schools.

The following chart shows the data for Hood River County over the past three weeks. It also shows the next two weeks when health metrics must be met for schools within HRCSD to reopen for in-person instruction by the HRCSD target date. OHA releases [School Metrics Data](#) weekly on Tuesday.

Week of	Case Count	Cases per 100,000	Test Positivity Rate (%)	State Positivity Rate (%)	Can K-3 Open?	Can 4-12 Open?
September 27	3	11.8	0.9	6.3*	Yes	No
October 4	13	51	5.9	6.4	No	No
October 11	1	4	0	5.8	On Track	No
October 18	*Must meet ODE health metrics to reopen on November 9					
October 25	*Must meet ODE health metrics to reopen on November 9					

Plans to Reopen Schools

Hood River County is on track to meet state’s health metrics to reopen schools for in-person instruction for students in kindergarten through third grade (K-3). HRCSD is prioritizing a return from CDL to in-person instruction for K-3 students so they can build literacy and numeracy skills critical to their future success in school. Students that read and do math at grade-level by the end of third grade are more likely to experience success throughout their school years. Having our youngest students on-site will enable our staff to assess and respond directly and immediately to the varying learning needs of our students.

Provided Hood River County continues to meet the metrics for K-3 on-site learning, HRCSD plans to return K-3 students to their neighborhood schools for in-person instruction starting on Monday, Nov. 9, 2020. In-person instruction will occur Monday through Friday on a shortened daily schedule, approximately 7:45am to 12:15pm. We will continue to monitor the weekly metrics and keep families informed of our plans as that date approaches. Families with K-3 students will receive an email from the HRCSD administration that includes more information regarding schools reopening.

Hood River County does not meet the state’s health metrics for reopening schools for students in grades 4-12. **Students in grades 4-12 will remain in CDL until February 2, 2021, which coincides with the end of Semester 1.**

HRCSD Operational Blueprints to Reopen Schools

HRCSD must develop and submit Operational Blueprints to the school district’s board of directors, ODE, and Hood River County Health

Department for review and approval prior to reopening schools within HRCSD. The Operational Blueprints include the health and safety precautions that schools within HRCSD must follow to safely reopen.

The district administration meets regularly to discuss logistical issues and make recommendations for the Operational Blueprints. The Operational Blueprints will be presented to the HRCSD board of directors in the public work session on October 28. Following that work session, the blueprints will be sent to ODE and Hood River County Health Department for review and approval.

Distance Learning Feedback

HRCSD appreciates families' time and effort dedicated toward supporting their student(s) during online learning. Please take 10 minutes or so to complete the [Online Learning Feedback Survey](#) to share about your experiences with online learning, either through CDL or Hood River Options Academy (HROA). HRCSD staff and teachers strive to improve programs and services for students, and your input is valued.

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 physical distance, stay home if you are sick, and wash your hands frequently.

My best,

Rich Polkinghorn
Hood River County School District, Superintendent

Excellence. Every student. Every day.

Rich Polkinghorn | Superintendent
1011 Eugene Street • Hood River, Oregon 97031 • 541-386-2511
www.hoodriver.k12.or.us