



August 17, 2020

Update on Fall School Re-Opening 2020-21

Oregon Department of Education has put out guidance on the safe re-opening of K-12 private and public schools in Oregon. The first iteration of the guidance came out June 10th with the assumptions that:

- The majority of schools would be resuming as usual in the Fall
- They would release regularly scheduled versions on June 30, July 22, and August 11th with plans due for submission on August 17th
- Schools would be able to choose their instructional method: Comprehensive Distance Learning, Hybrid (online/in-person), or In-Person

New Metric Requirements

Governor Kate Brown's recent press conference on July 28th, the requirement that schools are not able to reopen unless:

- *County Metrics - metrics to be met three weeks in a row:*
 - Case rate: ≤ 10 cases per 100,000 population in the preceding 7 days*
 - Test positivity: $\leq 5\%$ in the preceding 7 days
- and -
- *State Metric - metric to be met three weeks in a row*
 - Test positivity: $\leq 5\%$ in the preceding 7 days

Exceptions Washington County schools may be eligible for from August 11th Version of [Ready Schools, Safe Learners](#):

Statewide:

- Provide In-Person Education for Kindergarten through 3rd Grade
- Limited In-Person Instruction for Specific Groups of Students
- School-wide in small districts (enrollment of less than or equal to 75 students)

County Specific (WaCo eligible):

- School-wide remote or rural schools in larger population counties with a population of less than 30,000 and population density of less than 6 people per square mile

Statewide

- Kindergarten through 3rd grade in-person instruction:
 - ≤ 30 cases per 100,000 over 7 days
 - Test positivity of 5% or less over 7 days
 - No COVID-19 cases for students/staff in the last 14 days
 - The test positivity in the county is less than or equal to 5% in the preceding 7 days for the past three weeks.
 - The case rate of the county is ≤ 30 cases per 100,000 in the preceding 7 days for the past three weeks.

This exception is due to younger students getting the virus at lower rates, getting less sick when they do contract COVID-19, and spreading the virus less than older students and adults. Younger students also need more in-person instruction to build literacy and math skills that are critical for lifelong learning.

- Limited In-Person Instruction (In addition to Comprehensive Distance Learning):
 - [Comprehensive Distance Learning Guidance](#) must be followed
 - No more than 10 students at a given time in cohort
 - Students cannot be part of more than two cohorts
 - Limited to two consecutive hours in school building and cannot be intermittent (single student/student group)
 - The absolute number of students who can be in a building with in a given week to 250
 - In-person can't take place of any CDL—cannot force students to be on campus
 - No student/staff cases in the last 14 days
 - Schools must fully comply with sections 1-3 of the [Ready Schools Safe Learners Guidance](#) via Oregon Department of Education.

- School-wide Small Districts
 - Enrollment total \leq 75 students.
 - There is not community spread in the school catchment area or in the communities that serve as the primary employment and community centers.
 - The school is isolated by a significant distance from communities reporting COVID-19 community spread in the previous 3 weeks.
 - When a school/district is considering this exception, Public health should take into consideration the cases in the community, COVID-19 testing availability, in the community, recent percent positivity of tests, capacity in the community to respond to cases and outbreaks and the regional hospital capacity available for those with severe disease.

County-wide

- Large population counties with a population of less than 30,000 (defined rural or remote schools)
 - \leq 30 cases per 100,000 over 7 days for the past three weeks.
 - Test positivity \leq 5% over in the preceding 7 days for the past three weeks.
 - No COVID-19 cases for students/staff in the last 14 days
 - Test positivity in the county is less than or equal to 5% in the preceding 7 days for the past three weeks
 - School has enrollment of less than or equal to 250 and no more than 10% live outside of the school's catchment area
 - Must be 8 miles or more from any public school that serves any of the same grades
 - The school fully complies with sections 1-3 of the Ready Schools, safe Learners guidance and students cannot be part of any single cohort, or part of multiple cohorts that is less than 50 people

- Must be considered ‘Rural’ or ‘Remote’
 - Remote is defined as a public or private school that is located more than 8 miles from any public school that serves any of the same grade levels. This is based on the definitions used in ORS 327.077.
 - Rural is defined using the National Center for Education Statistics “Locale” codes, these are available through ODE

Current County and State metrics for the past three weeks:

Oregon COVID-19 County Metrics by week: July 19th - August 2nd

Week Begin	Case rate per 100,000	Test Positive Rate
Statewide		
July 26, 2020	55	6.2
Aug 2, 2020	52	5.2
Aug 9, 2020	48	5.4
Washington County		
July 26, 2020	54	5.7
Aug 2, 2020	43	5.3
Aug 9, 2020	42	4.1

Metrics are updated weekly and can be found:

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/DISEASES/CONDITIONS/DISEASESAZ/Emerging%20Respiratory%20Infections/Weekly-County-Metrics.pdf>

Washington County School Re-Open Status by School District

At this point in time, Washington County is not able to reopen schools due to our rates being over this threshold. Schools are also currently contemplating doing Limited In-Person tutoring, learning support, etc. The plans for reopening the public schools districts on September 14 are as follows:

School District	Type of Learning	Timeline	Proposed School Start Date
Hillsboro	Comprehensive Distance Learning	Reassessment after November 5	September 14
Tigard-Tualatin	Comprehensive Distance Learning	Reassessment 9 weeks after opening	September 14
Beaverton	Comprehensive Distance Learning	Reassessment after November 13/	September 14
Forest Grove	Comprehensive Distance Learning	Until further notice	September 14
NW Region/ Gaston/Sherwood	Comprehensive Distance Learning	Until further notice	September 14
Private Schools/Higher Learning Institutions	Individual decision-making currently unknown as date of report	Will be determined as new data/metrics come out	September 28

School/District Fall Plans Due to ODE August 17

Regardless of the changes these new restrictions pose on re-opening of schools, public and private K-12 schools are still required to complete and share their Comprehensive Distance Learning plans and/or create a blueprint assessment for hybrid/in-person transition to be shared on their school/district site and also on [Oregon Department of Education's school page](#). The school/district plans for Fall must be shared on their individual sites as well as sent into Oregon Department of Education by August 17th.

All plans geared towards hybrid or in-person learning must be turned into LPHA for assessment of sections 1-3 detailing Public Health Protocols; this does not include schools/districts who are doing Comprehensive Distance Learning and utilizing the statewide exception for limited in-person instruction.

All plans are to be submitted to Oregon Department of Education [here](#).

Statewide K-12 School Sports Guidance

<https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/le2351k.pdf>

Higher Education

Higher Education campuses in Washington County have until September 1st to submit their reopening plans to the Higher Education Coordinating Council. School starts September 28th. Most are leaning towards a distance learning model. The higher education facilities in Washington County are as follows:

- Portland Community College (Rock Creek Campus, Hillsboro Center, Willow Creek Center)
- Pacific University
- Pioneer Pacific College (Beaverton Campus)
- University of Portland (Westside Campus)

Childcare/Daycares

NEW guidance - released on August 14th

<https://oregonearlylearning.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Health-and-Safety-Guidelines-August-14-2020-English-Web.pdf>

Oregon Department of Education Early Learning Division in partnership with Oregon Health Authority has released guidance on Health and Safety for Child Care and Early Education operation during COVID-19 (linked above). The guidance details the requirements for baseline, phase 1, and phase 2 counties including daily screenings, recordkeeping, personal protective equipment, group size and stability, cleaning and disinfecting, etc. This version of the guidelines takes effect on September 1, 2020. Any child care and early education provider may elect to implement earlier but must implement the guidelines in full if choosing to do so.

The guidelines are applicable to the following:

- All licensed program (certified and registered)
- All child care and preschool provided in public school settings
- All recorded programs, including school age

- Oregon Pre-kindergarten (prenatal to kindergarten), Preschool Promise, and Baby Promise
- Oregon relief Nurseries
- Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special education provided in child care or early education setting

The guidelines are intended to be helpful for individuals who provide family, friend and neighbor care but they are not required to be implanted in these settings.

School Immunization Exclusion Reporting (K-12 private and public schools and certified daycares/PreKs/headstarts)

For schools:

- Schools that anticipate they will reopen (at least partially) later in the school year when it's possible, should plan on collecting immunization records, notifying parents of missing immunizations, and participating in immunization reporting and exclusion.
- Schools that are planning on exclusively online learning for the full school year will be able to count these students in the "not counted" category of the immunization report. They are still encouraged to collect immunization records, in preparation for in-person learning next school year.

For daycares:

- Daycares that are closed permanently will be considered 'inactive'
- Daycares that are closed temporarily, but at least through February 2021, can be temporarily exempt from immunization reporting for the year.
- Daycares that may reopen by January 2021, are required to report and collect immunization records, however may be exempt from reporting if they remain closed past January.

Washington County Support

Consistent with our regional local health partners, public health is a partner to support schools with guidance and promotion of public health principles, but schools and districts know their own resources and capabilities better than public health. The group agreed that schools and districts must take responsibility and ownership over their plans.

Washington County Public Health is aiding the public and private schools by providing tools and guidance to help them fulfill their blueprint requirements and plan for COVID prevention/outbreak.

- Disease mitigation and outbreak protocol documents and forms to assist in fulfilling blueprint requirements on public health protocol, screening, sanitation and disinfection, outbreak protocol, and disease prevention.
- Washington County has also acted as a bridge between Oregon Education Department, Oregon Health Authority, and the local schools via holding weekly school district administrator and nurse meetings in order to update schools on protocol and guidance changes along with answers to frequently asked questions.

Documents created for schools by Washington County

- School COVID Outbreak Guidance (sent in conjunction with Oregon School Nurse's Associations Communicable Disease School Communication Protocol & 'Should My Child Go To School' Parent/Guardian guidance)

- Environmental Health Checklist for Sanitation and Disinfection (sent in conjunction with CDC’s Sanitation and Disinfection guidance for congregate settings)
- Washington County COVID Line List for disease and symptom reporting
- Washington County Intake Form
- Contact and Resource Document
- Testing Site Documents

How Washington County is Decreasing COVID Rates

We are continuing to do contact tracing, work with employers, promote education about risk reduction/prevention, we also will be working with the 55 new Community-Based Organizations funded in our community to work on COVID outreach and education. Many of them also serve other areas and we are meeting to coordinate work with the state and other local public health.

Governor Brown discussed on her July 28th Press Conference on School Safety and Health that as a community, as a State, and as individuals we have a due diligence to take precautions and follow State protocols by wearing masks, washing hands, and staying home when sick.

Resources:

More information on the current guidance, due dates, and blueprint assessments can be found on the Oregon Department of Education site:

<https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/healthsafety/Pages/COVID19.aspx>

More Information on new metrics required by Governor Brown can be found here:

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/DISEASES/CONDITIONS/DISEASESAZ/Emerging%20Respiratory%20Infections/Ready-Schools-Safe-Learners-Community-COVID-19-Metrics.pdf>

Washington County’s webpage devoted to the reopening of schools amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic:

<https://www.co.washington.or.us/HHS/CommunicableDiseases/COVID-19/back-to-school.cfm>

Comprehensive Distance Learning Guidance

<https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/healthsafety/Documents/Comprehensive%20Distance%20Learning%20Guidance.pdf>

Planning for COVID-19 Scenarios in Schools-Toolkit of Scenarios

<https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/healthsafety/Documents/Planning%20and%20Responding%20to%20COVID-19%20Scenarios%20in%20Schools%20August%202020.pdf>

Ensuring Equity and Access—Companion guidance

<https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/healthsafety/Documents/Ensuring%20Equity%20and%20Access%20Aligning%20State%20and%20Federal%20Requirements.pdf>