



## Bandon School District #54

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Hello,

The decision to have in person learning or comprehensive distance learning is an extremely difficult decision. Bandon School District will be using several factors to guide our decision making process. As we make decisions about returning to in-person instruction, we will be focusing on several critical factors including county COVID-19 conditions as well as more localized health conditions, readiness to meet the public health and safety requirements in Sections 1-3 of the Ready Schools Safe Learners guidance, and staff capacity across instructional models.

The most important consideration is the community case counts (or case rates). We are watching these rates closely to ensure that they are low enough that the community is not regularly introducing new COVID-19 cases into the school. The county metrics remain the best tool for determining when cases are low enough to return to in-person instruction. We are going to follow the metric guidelines very closely to phase in more students or to revert back to comprehensive distance learning, as needed.

One significant change in the new guidance is that public health metrics are now considered advisory metrics aligned to the Harvard Global Health Institute recommendations. These metrics allow for a return to in-person instruction for elementary students at higher levels of community case rates than previously recommended. The metrics are now advisory not required, however. If we do not follow the metrics, we have a higher degree of liability and we will be required to have on-site testing for students and staff who become symptomatic on campus, as well as those with known exposure. This testing requirement is a new requirement that has to be in place by March 1, 2021. We are consulting with our local healthcare professionals as we identify resources for testing. ODE is developing procedures and protocols for the testing process. I will provide more information as it develops.

Another important factor is our ability to implement public health and safety protocols in the schools with fidelity. Oregon's guidance is comprehensive and includes diligent entry screening, universal use of face coverings, physical distancing, cohorting, frequent handwashing, and other requirements for mitigating the spread of COVID-19 in schools. We are required to ensure that students are not part of any single cohort, or part of multiple cohorts that exceed a total of 100 people within the educational week. If you are able to provide transportation to and from school

for your child, we highly encourage you to do so as it will help reduce the number of interactions each week. Cohorts must be stable within the educational week; therefore, we are unable to offer multiple transportation routes for our students.

We must actively work to ensure new cases of COVID-19 are not introduced to the schools, causing disruption to the learning environment for students, staff, and our community. Bandon School District will continue to develop, practice and train our students and staff to follow the necessary protocols to remain open for on-site instruction. It is also imperative that we continue to diligently screen all students and staff for symptoms upon entry to bus/school/outside learning space every day. Families can help with this effort by monitoring potential symptoms and keeping students home when they are not well. Each building has a compliance officer to monitor the process. At each school it is the building principal and in each department it is the department supervisor. The superintendent is responsible for overall district compliance. We are also working on a simple process that allows for named and anonymous sharing of concerns. It is imperative that we ensure fidelity to our protocols (specifically face coverings and social distancing) to keep our buildings open for on-site instruction.

Other factors that will influence our decision to offer on-site instruction are the ability to have staff on site for students, input from educators, advisory committees and our district safety committee. We also value the input we receive from students, families, and community partners. We are always evaluating the equity of our decisions to ensure that we are meeting the needs of all of our students in the best possible way.

Working together as a team, we can continue to increase the number of students on site with in-person instruction and reduce the spread of the virus in our community. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly with any questions or concerns.



Doug Ardiana, Superintendent