



SOUTH COAST

EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

This morning Governor Kate Brown released a statement to address the spread of COVID-19 Coronavirus in the State of Oregon. Governor Brown shared that her goal was to slow down the transmission of the disease and preserve hospitals' capacity to effectively respond to potential and/or confirmed cases of the COVID-19 Coronavirus.

While there are **no confirmed cases in our area** the new guidance from Governor Brown and Oregon Department of Education will affect the typical operations of schools. Please note this situation is continuously evolving. We will do our best to provide up to date information as it becomes available. At the Governor's recommendation the following will be implemented:

- **Schools will remain open**
- Any and all field trips will be cancelled for at least 30 days
- Community instruction will be held within the classroom rather than going out to the community setting to limit student and staff exposure
- IEP and IFSP meetings will be held as scheduled unless you hear otherwise

We understand that these announcements may be concerning to you. We continue to take precautionary steps to enhance our already rigorous cleaning schedule to include daily disinfecting and sanitizing of all school environments as well as focusing on handwashing and good hygiene practices with students and staff for blowing our nose, coughing, or sneezing. We are also placing reminders for good hygiene practices and supporting our staff and students to frequently use handwashing stations. Please assist us by helping your student remain healthy by implementing the following preventative measures recommended by health officials:

- Practice good hand hygiene and help your student learn to wash their hands really well. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands. Use Alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available.
- When coughing and sneezing, cover your mouth and nose with a tissue. You can also cough or sneeze into your sleeve. Throw used tissues in the trash and immediately wash your hands with soap and water.
- Avoid sharing drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, dishes, towels or other items. Wash these items thoroughly with soap and water after use.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick whenever possible.
- Practice good health habits: Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at home, work or school, especially when someone is ill.

As a reminder **it is important to keep students at home when they are ill.** Please see the attached handout, "Too Sick for School?" for assistance. If your student has any of the following please keep them home from school: Temperature of 100.4, coughing, vomiting, diarrhea, any rash not yet diagnosed by a physician, red or pink itchy eye, and/or drainage from the eye and any contagious illness such as the chicken pox, strep throat or the flu. If you have concerns about your student's illness, please contact your local health authorities or advising families to seek medical attention.

We encourage you to continue to **send your student to school if they are healthy**. Should you decide to keep your student at home please call the office to report the absence and develop a plan to ensure your student stays on track with their learning.

For more information on the COVID-19 Coronavirus you may find the following resources helpful:

- County Health Departments of Coos, Curry and Douglas counties
- Oregon Department of Education: <https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/healthsafety/Pages/COVID19.aspx>
- Oregon Health Authority: healthoregon.org/coronavirus
- Centers for Disease Control (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

We know you will likely have many questions and we will attempt to answer some of them below. Please know that we are doing everything we can to keep our students and staff healthy and safe. Thank you for your partnership in that effort.

If you have any questions or concerns please reach out to the program administrator of the program of which your student attends.

Respectfully,



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Frequently-Asked Questions

Q. How is COVID-19 Spread and what are the symptoms?

A. Although the exact mechanisms of transmission are not fully known, other coronaviruses spread from an infected person to others through:

- the air by coughing and sneezing
- close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands
- touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes

Infected people have experienced a range of illness, from mild (similar to a common cold) to severe pneumonia that requires hospitalization. So far, deaths have been reported mainly in older adults who had other health conditions.

People who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 have reported symptoms that may appear in as few as 2 days or as long as 14 days after exposure to the virus:

- fever
- cough
- difficulty breathing

If you have symptoms, call your healthcare provider to identify the safest way to receive care. Let them know if you have traveled to an affected area or come in contact with an ill person who has traveled to an affected area within the last 14 days.

Q. Why wouldn't you close the school to avoid having so many people in one place?

A. [Updated guidance from the Oregon Health Authority](#) and County Public Health is that because COVID-19 is in the community, closing a school may not be an effective method of stopping the spread of the virus.

We will continue with our enhanced cleaning efforts, reinforcing health hygiene expectations with students, and asking students and staff to stay home if they are ill. Those actions are thought to be the most beneficial in keeping people healthy and stopping the spread of the virus.

Q. What exactly do you mean by disinfecting and sanitizing?

A. Clean and sanitize all common surfaces, toys, educational materials and technology daily. In addition, the classroom surfaces are sprayed with hospital grade disinfectant at the end of every school day.

Q. I haven't been asked to self-quarantine by the Health Department, but I'm concerned about my personal medical situation. What should I do?

A. Please consult with your medical provider for guidance around your personal situation.