



SOUTH COAST

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Good Afternoon,

Today at 11am Governor Kate Brown announced the loosening of the opening metrics for schools. I know this will cause both concern and excitement. While we are able to educate more students in person, for many, the shifts and changes also cause disruption to your established routines and additional concerns for personal safety. We will continue to be vigilant in our safety implementation practices in buildings and thank everyone for remaining committed to using face coverings, maintaining physical distancing and washing hands frequently.

I understand the metrics can seem complicated and there are many moving parts. I will host a Q & A meeting next week for staff members who are interesting in learning more.

For the time being, in general, the following items are of note:

- 1. New K-12 Opening Standard**-The case rate per 100,000 has changed from 10 per 100,000 a week for three weeks to 50 per 100,000 per combined two weeks. What this means is that the district will need to add two weeks of data together and if the case rate is under 50 they can open all grades K-12. In addition, the state no longer needs to meet the test positivity standard in order for the district to open. Schools will still have to use the Ready Schools Safe Learners Guidance (RSSL) for all safety practices.
 - a. Curry County schools are currently eligible for this option
- 2. New Elementary Opening Standard**-If the case rate is between 50-100 per 100,000 for a combined two weeks districts can open their entire elementary school. Right now they can only open K-3 so this is an expansion to the rule. Remember you have to add two weeks of data together. This isn't the number of cases or case count instead it's the cases per 100,000.
 - a. Coos and Douglas schools are currently eligible for this option.
- 3. Local Decision-Making:** Under the new school metrics, school districts will consult with local public health officials to make the final decision about returning to in-person learning once their county has met requirements.
- 4. Limited In Person Instruction (LIPI):** The size of the LIPI cohorts have increased from 10 to 20 for both the classroom time and on the school bus. In addition, the state has removed the 250 student cap per building for LIPI. The amount of time on-site remains 2 hours and the contact rules for staff (no more than three cohorts in a day and five in a week) remain the same.
- 5. New Safety Guidance:** There are some changes to the mask rules as well as some small shifts in other parts of the safety guidance that I will comb through and see what, if anything, we need to do.

The most important point to these changes that I can leave you with is that each district will determine how and when they will apply this new guidance. This will likely take them some time so we do not have answers yet on what individual districts will be doing. Our ESD school administrators will work with each building administrator to support transition plans based on their individual building and district decisions.

In the coming days we will stay in touch about potential changes and how they impact you. Please reach out to your program administrator with questions and concerns. We will work together to get back to you as soon as possible.

Take care and have a great weekend,

Tenneal

Tenneal Wetherell
Superintendent
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