



SOUTH COAST EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT

Main Office
1350 Teakwood, Coos Bay, OR 97420
541.269.1611 • TDD: 541.269.1611
Fax: 541.266.4040

South Branch Office
29805 Mary St, PO Box 786
Gold Beach, OR 97444
541.247.6681 • Fax: 541.247.2603
www.scesd.k12.or.us

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Hello,

I hope my email finds you well and your family healthy. As you have likely heard our south coast community is experiencing an increase in COVID cases. This has many asking about how this impacts the schools given the new metrics. The new metrics are divided into groups by a numeric range and then color coded. You would use the county case rate for Coos and Douglas and case count for Curry. This is separated based on the sizes of the communities. See the chart below and I will reference it throughout the email.

Metrics & Models	On-Site	On-Site and Distance Learning	Transition	Distance Learning
County Case Rate per 100,000 People Over 14 days	<50.0	50.0 to <100.0	100.0 to ≤200.0	>200.0
County Case Count Over 14 days (for small counties ¹)	<30	30 to <45	45 to ≤60	>60
County Test Positivity²	<5.0%	5.0% to <8.0%	8.0% to ≤10.0%	>10.0%

- In green, as long as the case rate over a combined two weeks is 50 or under for Coos and Douglas and 30 or less case count for Curry all students K-12 can come back to school. The test positivity rate needs to be 5% or less as well.
- In yellow, the case rate needs to be between 50-100 for Coos and Douglas and 30-45 case count for Curry you can bring back K-6 and if things go well ultimately districts can slowly add 7-12. In yellow the test positivity rate needs to be between 5%-8%
- Orange is the warning color. When the case rate gets to between 100-200 for Coos and Douglas and 45-60 case count for Curry schools should be thinking about transitioning to CDL. The test positivity rate in this color band is 8% to 10%.
 - Districts can still bring in students K-6 but they cannot add any students 7-12.
 - All existing students get to stay too, so if you already had middle school in for instance they could stay
- Once the combined two week case rate hits red (200+ case rate for Coos and Douglas and 60 case count for Curry) the district would need to move to CDL within the school week. The test positivity metric in red is 10% or greater.

It is important to note that there are some nuances to this overview that are somewhat complicated and would be too confusing in an email. What you really need to know are the general points above but I would be glad to walk through scenarios if anyone has questions.

Now, let's consider what is happening in our region. In Coos County the case rate is 105.9. This means that we are in orange.

- If a grade level is already in school (including EI/ECSE) they get to stay.
- In addition if the district planned to bring back students within a two week time period from the last time we were yellow they can do so but the district cannot add any more grades after 6th. This allows districts to “look back” two weeks and not stop implementations once districts have made a plan with teachers and families.
- Even then districts are measuring the cases and working with the LPHA to determine what is best for their district. The biggest area to focus on is if there are cases in the school that are spreading from one student or staff to another. This is not happening. Staff and students have had to quarantine but a COVID positive person in the school has not given it to another staff member or student.

County	County Size	Time Period	Case Count	Cases per 100,000	Test Positivity
Coos	Large†	10/18/2020 - 10/31/2020	57	90.1	3.5%
		10/25/2020 - 11/07/2020	51	80.6	3.8%
		11/01/2020 - 11/14/2020	67	105.9	5.8%

In Curry County, the case rate is within yellow but the test positivity rate is in orange. This means that they have to follow the orange rules. If the district's students are already in session then they do not have to move to CDL until they hit red. For instance Gold Beach started full K-12 already and now they get to stay unless they hit red. In Brookings, the elementary students are in school and some middle school, high school but now that they are orange they would need to pause adding any additional students 7-12.

County	County Size	Time Period	Case Count	Cases per 100,000	Test Positivity
Curry	Small*	10/18/2020 - 10/31/2020	6	26.1	4.8%
		10/25/2020 - 11/07/2020	17	73.9	7.8%
		11/01/2020 - 11/14/2020	21	91.3	8.5%

In Reedsport, unfortunately the case rate and the test positivity rate went to red. This means they would have to transition to CDL within this school week. Since RSD determined they would transition to CDL last week they don't need to make any additional changes at this time.

County	County Size	Time Period	Case Count	Cases per 100,000	Test Positivity
Douglas	Large†	10/18/2020 - 10/31/2020	70	62.4	4.4%
		10/25/2020 - 11/07/2020	122	108.7	9.2%
		11/01/2020 - 11/14/2020	235	209.4	13.4%

I know it can all be very confusing and monitoring it can be hard. The school leaders in these districts and SCESD administrators will keep track of the metrics data and the impacts it has on the services we provide. I understand that many have concerns about the case rates not only because of the COVID spread and the impact on our friends, family and the community but also because it could impact your work. Each district gets to make their own decision how they operate under the metrics. At SCESD that means we need to be ready to serve in multiple capacities and based on their implementation plans. This can be frustrating too. Our staff however have done an amazing job of being flexible and responsive to the districts, students and families needs. For now, try and make sure that you are tuning out the noise on social media and avoid worrying about rumors in terms of “are we going to stay open or are we going to close” for a specific district. Until it is communicated by the leadership at one of the district’s, rumors and speculation cannot be trusted. I’m committed to telling you what I know about a district’s confirmed plans as soon as they are known to me.

Please reach out to your program administrator if you have questions. Thank you for all of your efforts on behalf of students and families during this unusual time. While I didn’t expect anything different from you amazing people I am so impressed with your dedication to your work and to ensuring students are as successful as they can be during this difficult time.

Take care,

Tenneal

Tenneal Wetherell
Superintendent

(she, her, hers -[Why Pronouns Matter](#))

Office: 541.266.3983 | Fax: 541.266.4040

tennealw@scesd.k12.or.us



1350 Teakwood Avenue, Coos Bay OR, 97420

www.scesd.k12.or.us

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