

November 17, 2020

Dear Sutherlin School District Families,

We know this is a hard time for our community and our hearts go out to those who are ill. The safety of our students and staff continue to be our number one priority.

Despite the increase in COVID-19 cases in Douglas County, Sutherlin School District is able to continue to keep schools open under the Safe Harbor Clause outlined in the *Ready Schools, Safe Learners* guidance. **At this time, all Sutherlin schools will continue to provide on-site instruction to students through at least November 25<sup>th</sup>. However, the district will closely monitor the status of COVID-19 in the county/school district and future decisions will be made on a weekly basis. To be clear, we will continue to offer on-site instruction to be determined weekly as we move towards Christmas Break.**

We're grateful to our teachers, instructional assistants and substitute teachers who offer ways for students to stay engaged in effective learning.

To provide increased disinfection protocols during in-person learning, our district has recently added additional custodial services. In addition, extra bus drivers were hired to help keep our students and staff safe.

It is important to note, while there have been three students who tested positive for COVID-19, it was determined that the students contracted the virus outside of the school setting and there have been no additional cases as a result of attending school within our district.

We want our community to protect themselves against COVID-19. Here are ways to help protect your family and others:

- People who are sick should stay home from work or school and avoid other people until they are better.
- Wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds.
- Wear face coverings in public to help prevent the spread of the virus.
- Maintain a distance of six feet between people outside your household.
- Teach your children to cover coughs and sneezes with tissues or by coughing into the inside of the elbow.

We will keep you updated with any new information as it comes out, while meeting the requirements to honor everyone's right to privacy.

If you have questions or concerns about COVID-19, please contact your healthcare provider or call the Douglas Public Health Network hotline at 541-464-6550, seven days a week between 8 am - 5:00 pm.

Additional information about metrics can be found on the [Oregon Department of Education's Ready Schools, Safe Learners website](#) and the [Oregon Health Authority's COVID-19 page](#).

Sincerely,  
Terry Prestianni, Superintendent  
Sutherlin School District