



Penny Grotting, Superintendent
Board of Directors:
Amy Derby, Chair
Greg Greenwood, Vice Chair
Jeff Schott
Sarah Rucker
Kristen Neuberger
Greg Greenwood

November 17, 2020

Dear North Central Education Service District Communities,

There is nothing more important to all of us in Gilliam, Sherman and Wheeler Counties than the health and safety of our students, staff and community. As the Thanksgiving holiday approaches, we want to make sure our communities have the most recent information shared by Governor Brown last Friday regarding non-essential out-of-state travel and the two-week freeze (please see attached). We would like to remind our communities that this year, more than ever, it is important to celebrate the holiday safely to keep the spread of COVID-19 as low as possible within our school communities.

Our collective success in keeping our schools open has been primarily due to the efforts we have ALL made to follow our schools operational blueprint and safety procedures and protocols. Our future ability to continue on-site learning and to keep our school communities as safe as possible lies in our shared willingness to follow not only our school safety procedures, but also the recommendations of health professionals and state leaders.

Please know we are keenly aware that our districts have no authority to limit your travels. All we ask is that you carefully consider the impact and disruption that out of state travel may have on our students who have already lost so much since last March. It is our sincere goal to continue in-person instruction with no interruptions or closures to the fullest extent possible.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and diligence to help keep our school communities safe and healthy!

Respectfully,

NCESD Region Superintendents:

Wes Owens, Sherman County School District
Michelle Geer, Condon School District
Brandon Hammond, Arlington School District
Larry Johnson, Spray School District
Vince Swagerty, Mitchell School District
Jim Smith, Fossil School District
Penny Grotting, North Central Education Service District

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Information Regarding Travel Advisory for Non-Essential Travel and Two-week Freeze

Travel:

1. Persons arriving in Oregon from other states or countries, including returning Oregon residents, should practice [self-quarantine](#) for 14 days after arrival. These persons should limit their interactions to their immediate household. This recommendation does not apply to individuals who cross state or country borders for essential travel.

[Non-essential travel](#) includes travel that is considered tourism or recreational in nature.

[Essential travel](#) includes: work and study, critical infrastructure support, economic services and supply chains, health, immediate medical care, and safety and security.

2. Oregonians are encouraged to stay home or in their region and avoid non-essential travel to other states or countries. Avoiding travel can reduce the risk of virus transmission and bringing the virus back to Oregon.

Two-Week Freeze November 18-December 2, 2020:

What's affected by the two-week freeze starting Wednesday, Nov. 18	
 Gyms and fitness centers	Closed
 Indoor and outdoor recreational facilities like museums, pools and zoos	Closed
 Venues that host indoor and outdoor events	Closed
 Restaurants and bars	Takeout only
 Long term care facilities	Outdoor visitations only
 Grocery stores, pharmacies, retail stores and malls	Limited to 75% of maximum capacity with curbside pick up encouraged
 Offices	Mandate work-from-home to the greatest extent possible and close buildings to the public
 Indoor and outdoor social gatherings	No more than 6 people total and no more than 2 households present
 Faith based organizations and gatherings	No more than 25 people indoors and 50 people outdoors

The freeze does not change current protocols for personal services (such as barber shops, hair salons, and non-medical massage therapy), congregate homeless sheltering, outdoor recreation and sports, youth programs, childcare, K-12 schools, K-12 sports currently allowed, current Division 1 and professional athletics exemptions, and higher education.

For more information visit healthoregon.org/coronavirus or call 211

