



Oakridge School District #76

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March 22, 2021

To: OSD Staff and Parents

From: Superintendent Doland

Information Update:

On March 19, The Center for Disease Control revised its physical distancing recommendations for K-12 schools to reflect at least 3 feet between students in classrooms and provides clearer guidance when 6 feet is recommended or required. At that time Governor Brown shared that she, The Oregon Health Authority, and The Oregon Department of Education all were committed to reviewing physical distancing guidelines as soon as the CDC released any new recommendations. The result of their review was released today to school leaders and the public.

Along with you, I am reading and processing the information released today. Today I would like to share information with you concerning the decision for schools to be able to follow new CDC guidelines on physical distancing. These include expected updates for schools to follow in our Ready Schools, Safe Learners plans, next steps for our district planning teams, and a place to submit questions that remain unanswered at this time.

Become knowledgeable about the research behind the change here, [Research supporting the change](#) - Oregon Department of Education and here, [CDC Information](#)

Key updates expected to [Ready Schools, Safe Learners](#) plans include:

- Elementary schools must maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students to the maximum extent possible.
- Middle and High School must maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students to the maximum extent possible, when the county case rate is <200 (green level on the metrics chart in Section 0).
- Middle and High School must maintain at least 6 feet of physical distance between students to the maximum extent possible, when the county case rate is ≥ 200 (yellow and red levels on the metrics chart in Section 0).
- All schools must maintain 6 feet between staff at all times and 6 feet between staff and students to the maximum extent possible.
- Removal of the 35 sq ft per person requirement and other physical distancing changes are documented in the RSSL guidance.

What this could mean for OSD:

At this time, it appears that:

- Students in grades K-6 could be in class with up to 26 students if there is room to sit 3 ft apart in classrooms.
- Students in grades 7-12 can be in class with up to 26 students, if there is room to sit 3 ft apart in classrooms. **If** the county is in the green zone (less than 200 cases per 100,000).
- If the county goes over 200 cases per 100,000, grades 7-12 would need to transition back to 6ft physical distance in classrooms which would mean staggering A/B cohorts in the AM and PM again.
- Students in choir, band, and in music classes singing, will need to remain at 6ft distance.
- Adults will continue to follow 6ft physical distancing requirement
- We are no longer limited to contact with less than 100 people in a week.

Next Steps for OSD Planning:

A change from the six feet to a 3 feet physical distancing rule allows the Oakridge School District the opportunity to increase our ability to serve students in grades K-12 every day. However, prior to any firm decision, OSD will seek to gather feedback from various stakeholders in our community as follows:

1. OSD will develop a survey that will be distributed to OSD families, grades K-12 and K-12 staff members. This survey will go out by Friday, March 26, 2021. Families may expect the survey via text and may find it on our website under NEWS. A hard copy will be available by contacting your school office. Staff will receive it via "*ohswarriors*" email.
2. The OSD survey will review potential changes that could take place in our schools as a result of making adjustments for physical distance requirements of 3 feet and related topics.
3. The data gathered from the survey will inform our school district as we move forward with decisions, planning, and next steps for in person instruction.
4. OSD will also take input and decision-making support from our school board, Lane County Public Health, and local medical partners.
5. On Monday, April 5, 2021, OSD will host a Town Hall Meeting at 6:30 PM to go over our status as a school district and any changes that will be implemented due to the changes and adjustments to Ready Schools, Safe Learners and Center for Disease Control guidelines. If there are any changes, OSD will likely implement those changes by Monday, April 12. As our state, county, and town begins to open up. In all that we do to offer more opportunities to our students, we will take student safety and stakeholder input into consideration.

Some questions yet to be answered:

I know you have some too. Please submit them to reopening@ohswarriors.net These will be put into like categories and addressed at the Town Hall Meeting on April 5.