

Prairie City School District

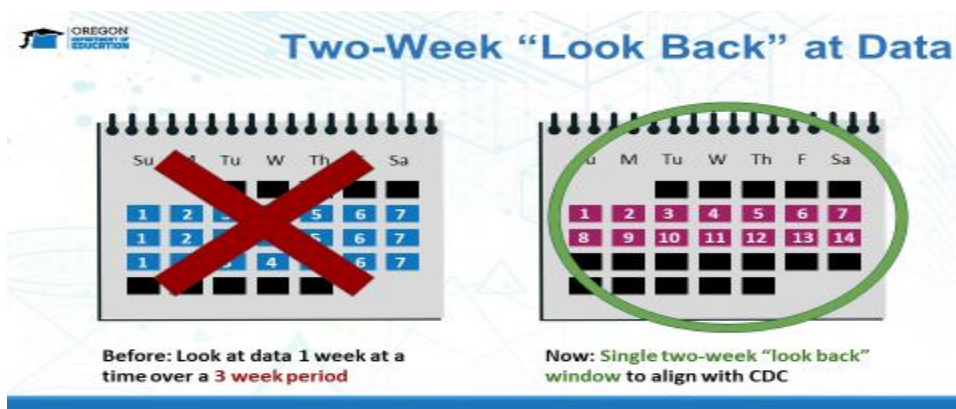
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Hello Prairie City Families:

Last week Governor Brown announced new state metrics and guidance for the state of Oregon. She has extended the state of emergency for COVID-19 until January 2, 2021. Here is the link to Governor Brown's Press Briefing: [Press Briefing on 10-30-20 with Governor Kate Brown, ODE Director Colt Gill and Dr. Tom Jeanne with OHA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery&v=oqpvXKJKgcc) or https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery&v=oqpvXKJKgcc.

Some important takeaways from the new metrics is that the state is recognizing the negative impacts of not having the students in school. One of the major impacts changes to our community is the "Two-Week Look Back" at data. This is a two week cumulative number that aligns to CDC guidance. Overall, the rationale for adjusting is to:

- Simpler to calculate and understand
- Aligns with other school metrics (e.g., Washington state; CDC)
- Averaging cases and test positivity over 14 days results smooths out week-to-week variation, which can be an issue especially in counties with smaller populations
- Retains ability to look at trends week-by-week because the 14-day numbers would still be released weekly (i.e., two periods overlap)



The other major impact by OHA is having masks required statewide for people age 5 and older. This is listed in the link <https://govstatus.egov.com/or-oha-face-coverings>. This will mean all students and staff will be required to wear masks. Please read the statement on the link as there are some provisions.

Our main concern at Prairie City School District is to be in compliance with the state guidance and to have our students in school, in-person. In order for this to happen we are encouraging all community residents, including students to also follow the guidance. We are operating with an abundance of precaution. Our [Ready Schools, Safe Learners Guidance 4.0.0](#) has all of the updates that relate to our school and can also be found on our school website, www.pcsd4.com. We are fortunate to be working side-by-side with the Grant County Health Department (GCHD) for the safety of the students and employees. Although it is not the premiere conditions to be in school, we have seen some wonderful things happening here at PC. Our staff loves every single student and loves building those relationships.

Please, if you have any question of concerns, call us at the school. 541-820-3314.

Thank you and Go Panthers!

Casey Hallgarth

Casey Hallgarth, Superintendent

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