

# Crook County School District

where students dream, learn, & succeed



**August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

Dear Valued Parents,

Due to the recent spike in Covid-19 cases in Crook County, we no longer meet the exception for K-3 to meet in the classrooms. These are metrics set by the State of Oregon that we are required to follow. Most students will now be learning online starting September 8<sup>th</sup> through at least September 24<sup>th</sup>. Every two weeks, we will give you a report and inform you of any changes, and hopefully soon, students can be back in the schools, as our desire is for them to be face to face with their teachers and peers.

There are three schools that qualify for rural and small school exceptions and will be able to open in person on September 8<sup>th</sup>: Paulina, Brothers and Pioneer Alternative School. Paulina and Brothers are not permitted to take outside transfers, but the Pioneer administrator, Pete Goodrich, is working with the high school to offer opportunities to high school students who are credit deficient. Mr. Goodrich will be reaching out to families starting Monday to discuss enrollment options.

While the County meets the per 100,000 metrics with 21 cases, the case positivity rate currently sits at 5.6% - too high for K-3 students to be in the buildings. The eight cases reported this week will keep the county above in the red and above the requirements to reopen. **Our new target date is September 28<sup>th</sup> to bring K-3 students back into the classrooms.**

This chart, developed by Assistant Superintendent Dr. Joel Hoff, provides a visual way to track the metrics. Our numbers need to fall in the green for three straight weeks before we can open K-3 or K-12.

<u>Week Starting Date</u>	<u>Case Count</u>	<u>Case Per 100,000</u>	<u>Test Positivity (%)</u>	<u>Could K-3 Open?</u>	<u>Could 4-12 Open?</u>
July 5 <sup>th</sup>	5	21	3.6%	Yes	No
July 12 <sup>th</sup>	7	30	4.6%	Yes	No
July 19 <sup>th</sup>	7	30	3.1%	Yes	No
July 26 <sup>th</sup>	10	43	5.5%	No	No
August 2 <sup>nd</sup>	5	21	5.6%	No	No
August 9 <sup>th</sup>					
August 16 <sup>th</sup>					
August 23 <sup>rd</sup>					
August 30 <sup>th</sup>					
September 6 <sup>th</sup>					
September 13 <sup>th</sup>					
<b>New weekly data released every Monday Afternoon</b>					

There are lots of exceptions and details to the to state's weekly metrics but for the "big picture"...

### To open K-3...

- $\leq 30$  cases per 100,000 people
- Test positivity rate of  $\leq 5\%$
- In addition, we must meet the criteria for 3 weeks in a row
- No "local spread"

### To open 4-12...

- $\leq 10$  cases per 100,000 people
- County Test positivity rate of  $\leq 5\%$
- State test positivity rate of  $\leq 5\%$
- In addition, we must meet the criteria for 3 weeks in a row

We desire to minimize the yo-yo effect of opening and closing schools, knowing it could put strain on our staff, students, and parents, so the end of September is a reasonable target. The school district will review the data every two weeks, beginning on September 14<sup>th</sup>, and begin the process of transitioning K-3 back to the classroom on September 28<sup>th</sup> if the metrics improve.

**Timeline for returning students to the classroom:**

- September 8<sup>th</sup>: Comprehensive Distance Learning begins for K-12
- September 14<sup>th</sup>: School district reviews health metrics for possible September 28<sup>th</sup> return
- September 28<sup>th</sup>: K-3 returns to classrooms if health metrics meet the exceptions
- Update families every two weeks on the COVID metrics and possible return to school

Once we begin Comprehensive Distance Learning starting September 8th, the guidelines allow us to offer “Limited In-Person Instruction” to meet the needs of specific groups of students based on educational, relational, curricular, instructional, and assessment supports. Teachers may bring small groups of students into the school. Groups may be no larger than 10 students and the maximum number of students served in a building in one week is limited to a total of 250. “Limited In-Person Instruction” will give children an opportunity to meet their teacher and begin to develop a relationship. It will also allow the schools to meet the needs of diverse populations and programs.

**OSAA UPDATE – SPRING SPORTS**

The school district unveiled a new plan for OSAA’s Season 1, which runs August 31st - December 27th. This will allow coaches and athletes to start practices and plan for limited competitions or scrimmages based on current health metrics in Crook County.

The plan is to create three short seasons for fall, winter, and spring sport athletes. Spring sports will kick off August 31st since those athletes missed the entire season last year due to Covid-19, and because they are played outside and can more easily maintain social distancing. Our spring sports include baseball, softball, golf, tennis, and track & field.

CCHS will follow all social distancing and safety protocols outlined by the Oregon Department of Education, Oregon Health Authority, and the OSAA. Coaches will continue to collect athletic waivers, conduct temperature checks, sanitize equipment regularly, and masks will be required if six feet of social distancing can’t be maintained, even during competitions.

Here’s a breakdown of the plan:

- OSAA Season 1: August 31<sup>st</sup> - December 27<sup>th</sup>
- Three shortened seasons for spring, fall, and winter sports in that order
  - Season 1A: Spring Sports, August 31st - October 9th
  - Season 1B: Fall Sports, October 10th - November 20th
  - Season 1C: Winter Sports, November 21st - December 27th
- Each season will include the following:
  - Two-week practice period
  - 4-week scrimmage/competition period
    - Could include scrimmages among our own athletes
    - Or possible competition against regional opponents
- Practice times will occur after normal school hours in the afternoon. Your athlete’s coach will inform you of the practice schedule.

Athletes will need to go through the normal registration process, which includes updated physicals and providing proof of health insurance. We will provide additional details over the next few weeks, and if your child is a CCHS athlete, they will be hearing from their coaches soon.

You can always find the latest updates by watching Fireside Chats, which are available on the district's YouTube page or through a link on our website. We've also added all Weekly Parent Updates to the website, so you can review updates from the last couple of weeks.

- Fireside Chats: <http://crookcounty.k12.or.us/fireside-chat/>
- Weekly Parent Updates: <http://crookcounty.k12.or.us/2020/07/31/parent-update/>

Keeping our families consistently informed is a high priority for the school district, so we will continue providing weekly updates and let you know right away if anything significant changes.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sara E. Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "S".

Dr. Sara E. Johnson, Superintendent