



Guidance for up-coming 2021-22 School Year

July 23, 2021

Greetings, Blachly District Staff and TLCS Families,

At the end of June, the Governor lifted the majority of COVID-19 restrictions in Oregon. Additionally, our state governing body, the Oregon Department of Education, in conjunction with the Oregon Health Authority, has given greater flexibility to local districts on COVID protocols.

For the last 18 months, the Blachly School District has worked closely with Lane County Public Health Department to thoughtfully implement all mandated health and safety guidance. By beginning of March, we had a hybrid, in person learning last spring onsite as an option, and did so with minimal COVID-19 spread in schools. Moving forward, we will continue to collaborate with Lane Co. Health to prioritize the safety and wellness of our students, staff, and community.

To start the upcoming school year, here is our current thinking and actions as we anticipate implementing the following regarding COVID-19 guidance that can be found in the RSSL Resiliency Framework 2021-22:

- **Maintain contact logs in order to identify and isolate COVID-19 cases and exposures (state requirement):**
 - We will continue to work with Lane Co. Health to identify COVID-19 cases as well as those considered exposed to COVID-19, and will be required to quarantine affected unvaccinated students and/or staff.
 - This quickly identifies exposed individuals when a COVID-19 case is identified and minimizes the number of people who may need to be quarantined and reduce the disruption to learning.
- **Physical Distancing:**
 - Set up spaces for three-foot physical distancing to the maximum extent possible, while not limiting activities due to distancing.
 - Minimize time standing in lines and include floor markings and one-way traffic flow.
- **Cohorting:**
 - The district will continue to develop cohorts to the extent possible. This will take place to some degree at all grade levels, with more at the lower grade levels.



- **Make face coverings optional:**
 - We know that education is more effective (and fun) when we can see each other's faces. We have also received strong feedback from our families and staff about allowing masks to be optional. Masks are an effective way to slow or prevent the spread of disease, so we will work with our students and staff to respect everyone's individual choices. **We plan to encourage staff and students K-12 to wear masks, but are not required.** It should be noted that at this time, the CDC IS REQUIRING that masks be worn at all times during public transportation, which this includes current school buses [Public Transportation](#).
- **Continue other safety measures:**
 - Entry Screening – While we are not sure what this look like yet, there will be entry screening for the 2021-22 school year. Not having staff and students that may be sick come into the building is one of the best ways to stop the spread of the virus.
 - Sanitation and Air - These include: diligent cleaning and disinfecting, increased fresh air intake and upgrades to our schools per OSHA requirements, education and training, dedicated school COVID-19 safety teams, and easily accessible hand washing and hand sanitizer stations.
- **Training:**
 - Staff and students will be provided training and guidance at the beginning of the year regarding all of the safety protocols and procedures we will have in place.

The district is required to enforce all quarantining and isolation protocols set forth by the CDC, OHA and LCPH. This includes any staff member or student that is unvaccinated and determined to be in close contact with a positive COVID-19 case. This will include 14 days of exclusion from school and school related activities.

Finally, I ask that you be respectful of others during this upcoming year. Many staff and students may continue to choose to wear masks. Most, will choose to not wear a mask. We need to honor the choice of all, no matter what their choice is. We have families that have medically fragile students and family members. For many, the vaccine has still not been determined to be acceptable or appropriate for them to receive. Mask "shaming" or "harassment" will not be tolerated in any form, and will be addressed directly by administration.

This guidance is the direction we are leaning for the 2021-2022 school year, while continuing to follow the regularly-updated [Ready Safe School Learning Resiliency Framework](#). These decisions are not being taken lightly, as every decision impacts families, students, and staff members differently. We will announce our final plan to our staff and families at the August 18th School Board meeting. In addition, it must be clear that our "plan" is subject to change at a moment's notice.

The last year and a half have been trying for our staff, families, and community in so many ways. While COVID-19 may not be fully behind us, we are grateful and hope-filled to put more of our energy where it belongs, into ensuring ALL our students are learning and achieving their potential!



BLACHLY SCHOOL DISTRICT #90
Triangle Lake Charter School K- 12
"A community is known by the schools it keeps"
Superintendent: Adam Watkins

If you have questions, please email them to bsimington@blachly.k12.or.us. We will ensure the appropriate person answers them. Please know it is currently summer break for many of our staff, so our reply might be a bit slower than usual.

Respectfully,

Adam Watkins

Superintendent

Blachly SD 90

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Go Lakers!