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LANE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 71

Lowell/Fall Creek

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541-937-2105
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Dear Lowell School District Families,

As we preparing to start school on Wednesday, September 8th, many of you are nervous about sending your child to in person school. I wanted to reach out and share with you the safety protocols and procedures that we have in place to help keep all students and staff safe.

Lowell School District is following the Oregon Health Authority, Oregon Department of Education, CDC Guidance and Lane County Public Health recommendations regarding masking, cohorting of student groups, daily cleaning, physical distancing and hand sanitizing/hand washing opportunities throughout the day.

Safety protocols in place for students, staff and visitors in Lowell School District:

- Students, staff, and visitors will be required to wear a face covering while in any district building and while on a school bus.
 - At this time, the CDC is requiring that masks be used on all public transportation, which includes school buses.
 - Masks do not have to be worn when outdoors during recess, PE or outdoor learning. However, 3 feet physical distancing will be encouraged when masks are not worn outdoors.
- Hand sanitizing stations are available at each entrance and inside each classroom.
- Three-feet physical distancing will be encouraged whenever it is feasible and not disruptive to learning. This will especially be encouraged when unmasked outdoors.

What can you do to help?

The ability of Lowell School District to remain open to all students during the COVID-19 pandemic depends heavily on the willingness of our community to continue to be diligent in following the safety protocols that have been proven to decrease the spread of the disease. Please wear masks when indoors and in public areas. Please wash hands frequently. Please don't gather in large groups outside of your family unless you are masked and outdoors.

Additionally, if your child is showing signs of COVID-19, or has been exposed to COVID-19, please keep them home and contact your child's school office. Elementary Office 541-937-2105, MS/HS Office 541-937-2124.

- Symptoms of COVID-19 may include fever, sore throat, dry cough, shortness of breath, body aches and fatigue, loss of taste or smell, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea.

What will Lowell School District do if there is a COVID-19 exposure at school?

- Lowell School District will contact all students and staff that were in close contact to the COVID-19 positive person.

Lundy Elementary
45 South Moss Street
Lowell, OR 97452
541-937-2105

Dedicated to educational
achievement and the success
of every student

Lowell Jr/Sr High
65 South Pioneer Street
Lowell, OR 97452
541-937-2124

- Close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of a person for 15 minutes throughout the day regardless of mask status.
- If you are not contacted, that means you or your child were not a close contact and do not need to quarantine.
- We will work with Lane County Public Health to implement contact tracing and quarantining protocols as necessary. Please note that quarantine times are set by Lane County Public Health and are subject to change due to additional positive cases and/or additional information gathered by Lane County Public Health during contact tracing.
- If your child must quarantine due to a positive test or an exposure, we will provide learning packets for them during their quarantine time.

Here are some links to articles that you might find helpful as you navigate sending your child back to school.

From OPB, an interview with Dr. Malaika Little, a Pediatric Infectious Disease Specialist addressing Back to School concerns : <https://www.opb.org/article/2021/08/31/oregon-covid-19-cases-back-to-school-in-person-class-pandemic/>

From the CDC Website, Frequently Asked Questions for Parents: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/parent-faqs.html>

The ability of Lowell School District to remain open to all students during the COVID-19 pandemic depends heavily on the willingness of our community to continue to be diligent in following the safety protocols that have been proven to decrease the spread of the disease. Please wear masks when indoor in public areas. Please wash hands frequently.

The current Delta Variant of COVID-19 is much stronger and is more contagious than the previous strain. It is affecting kids more severely, however, a tiered approach of vaccination, masking, physical distancing, along with other safety protocols such as disinfection, air circulation, quarantining and contact tracing, we can help slow the spread within our school and community.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your students' Principals. Lundy Elementary School, Jessica Edgerton 541-937-2105 Ext: 220 or Jr/Sr High School, Scott Yakovich 541-937-2124 Ext: 102 . We look forward to partnering with you this year as we navigate these ever-changing times.

Stay safe and healthy,



Johnie Matthews
Lowell School District Superintendent