



**SCHOOL
DISTRICT**

Preparing children for an ever changing world

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Monday, September 20, 2021

Dear Neah-Kah-Nie School District Community,

After reviewing the downward trend in the positive case count rate in Tillamook County, now at 7%, and the recommendation by Tillamook County Health Department to return to in-person instruction, I have decided it is in the best interest of students, families, and staff to return to full-time, in-person instruction for the 2021-22 school year. Yes, during the school year, there will continue to be positive cases with students and staff. Yes, students and staff will need to quarantine. However, the school district has dedicated sufficient resources and training to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in our schools. With entry screening, face coverings, physical distancing, cohorting, hand washing & cleaning/disinfecting, airflow & ventilation, isolation & quarantine protocols, outdoor learning options, COVID-19 testing, and vaccination, the school district believes it is doing everything possible to reduce the spread at school. Obviously, the school district depends on families and the community to be safe in order to keep students in school. The school district encourages the following health & safety tips for students and households: (1) Make a plan to vaccinate all eligible household members. (2) Mask up in public, including carpools. (3) Limit gatherings with other households for now. (4) Make a plan in case your child needs to miss school. The school district will continue to collaborate with local public health authorities, and other community partners to ensure the safety of students and staff.

It is essential for everyone to understand, the Delta variant spreads easily in indoor spaces when people are unmasked and unvaccinated. We can all help stop spread by ensuring to wear face protection correctly in indoor spaces. If eligible, get vaccinated. Please stay home if having symptoms.

The school district's plan for in-person instruction requires time for staff to be properly trained in safety protocols, to collect and clean Chromebooks, etc. Thursday, September 23 and Friday, September 24 will be no contact days for students. Students will return on **Monday, September 27 following the late start Monday schedule.**

I would like to thank everyone for your support with the school district's decision to begin the school year in Comprehensive Distance Learning. It was the correct decision. Now, is the time to transition to full time, in-person instruction.

Sincerely,

Paul Erlebach, Superintendent

Neah-Kah-Nie School District