



**SCHOOL
DISTRICT**

Preparing children for an ever changing world

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Friday, December 17, 2021

Neah-Kah-Nie Community,

Thank you for your support during the first trimester of the school year with COVID safety protocols. Your sustained efforts have made a difference, from the beginning of the school year to December 8; there were only 28 student and staff positive cases. Students were in in-person learning until the high school had to transition to Comprehensive Distance Learning the week of December 13.

This week, twenty-one students and staff tested positive. Yes, these numbers are high; however, they are consistent with the rise in case counts in Tillamook County.

When students return for the second trimester, there will be an increase in COVID testing available. In addition to the volunteer COVID testing administered by school staff, there will be tests available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at the NKN Student Health & Wellness Center. Students, if you would like to be tested, please have your Consent to Test form available.

As we plan for the second trimester, we anticipate a spike in positive cases after the winter break. With the increased testing and adhering to the existing safety protocols, we are confident in-person instruction will continue, even with projected positive cases.

Please, talk to your trusted healthcare provider about the COVID vaccine. Remember, unvaccinated students & staff identified as close contacts to a positive COVID individual, will be required to quarantine for fourteen days. NKN schools will revisit shortened quarantine guidelines when cases decrease.

It is vitally important for students to stay home if they have any of these symptoms: cough, fever, congestion, sore throat, diarrhea, vomiting, loss of taste or smell, or change in breathing. The school district will continue to require face protection while students are at school. Changes to outdoor face protection will be considered in mid-January.

As always, the school district's main goal is to keep students and staff safely in school.

Be safe during the holiday season!

Sincerely,

Paul Erlebach, Superintendent

Neah-Kah-Nie School District