

November 20, 2020

Good Morning-

Reedsport is currently a recognized hotspot for the State of Oregon in case rate for Covid exposure. Where we once were safe in our isolation, we are now critical in our health condition and in our need to act responsibly. There are currently 25+ active, positive cases in our 5000 person population. This equates to a 500/100,000 case rate which puts us deeply in the "red zone" metric number; (remember that 200/100,000 shuts down schools to a remote learning model).

The State is using a two week modeling system and uses combined cases/rates from the two most recent weeks. With the last week's (Nov. 9) number and our numbers so far this week (Nov. 16), we are absolutely expecting to see next week (Nov. 23) to remain in the "Red" metric zone. The case rate will remain too high for us to be able to bring students back to the buildings as initially hoped. **Beginning the week of Nov. 30 staff will report back to the building to provide remote instruction and all students will continue to remain remote.**

At this point, it is too early to predict the metrics the week of Nov. 30 but there is a very small chance that the state metrics drop low enough for us to bring students back the week of December 7. The best way for Reedsport to return its students to the buildings will be to *dramatically* drop our case rate. This can only be accomplished if everyone that can stay home, stays home between now and the 30th. Ourselves, our family, our neighbors...everyone needs to do their part in controlling this current spread. We will continue to monitor the numbers and will focus on trying to keep students and staff safe. Please watch your email Monday night (the 23rd) for updated metrics but if I am going to attempt to predict the future, I am reasonably certain that students will continue remote learning the week of the 30th with staff operating from their individual work spaces in buildings. Our hope now (and our reason for staying home) is to control the current Reedsport spread. It is important that everyone do their part. I know that this is hard and family holidays are tempting to many of us. This will be hard but it is necessary for us to succeed in reopening schools.

I am aware that staff have expressed concern about their effectiveness this past week because they have been removed from their individual workspaces. I know that returning to individual work spaces will put staff back in touch with all of their materials and supplies for more effective instruction. Additionally, we had planned for Tuesday 11-24-20 to be an asynchronous instruction day as outlined in the recent MOU. With the certainty that students will remain remote on the 30th, we will have both synchronous and asynchronous instruction occur on the 11-24-20 school day. We will still provide the asynchronous only day prior to the actual return of students to the building.

If we are lucky, and we begin to see a sharp decline in the case rate the week of Nov 30, we will report it to the staff and community as soon as we know. Meanwhile, staff will return to their clean work environments (and we will closely monitor social distancing protocols) on November 30 for remote instruction. The soonest we can expect a return for students would be December 6 and this would be communicated for certain once the November 30 metric data is released. If case numbers continue around 100 per week, then case rate decline will be slow and we could be looking at a student return after the winter break. It is too early to predict. Again, our best hope is that people will follow quarantine instructions and stay home when they are sick. It is imperative that everyone treat this as a real concern for our community and schools. Again, I realize It is hard for everyone to minimize their exposures during traditional family holidays but it will be our only hope to get children back into the school buildings.

I'm sorry for the disappointing news. Stay Safe

jz