

Dear Ashbrook Families,

As you likely are aware, the path forward to the reopening of school has been full of twists and turns as things continue to change and *will* continue to change. While we are excited about returning to in-person classroom instruction, Governor Brown and the Oregon Health Authority released health metrics this week that will dictate when public and private schools can safely open.

The metrics that must be met for three consecutive weeks are:

County - Linn & Benton

- Case rate: ≤ 10 cases per 100,000 population in the preceding 7 days
- Test positivity: $\leq 5\%$ in the preceding 7 days

-and -

State of Oregon

- Test positivity: $\leq 5\%$ in the preceding 7 days

Since Ashbrook draws substantial numbers of students and staff from multiple counties, the case rate and test positivity rate should be considered in each of those counties. Neither Linn County, Benton County, nor the State of Oregon have met all of these metrics for the last three consecutive weeks. The restrictions may allow some exceptions for students in grades K-3, however, we are waiting to receive clarification on these exceptions as well as information regarding our childcare capabilities for our preschool and pre-k program.

We want to proceed as thoughtfully and intentionally as possible to keep staff and student safety at the heart of every decision. As we work to finalize our Operational Blueprint—which includes plans for full in-person learning for all students—we are also preparing for the possibility that students could be starting the first few weeks of school online, at least in grades 4-8.

We are committed to regular communication with our community as we monitor the ongoing changes and updates. Starting next Friday, August 7, we will begin sending the weekly Compass with more information on Ashbrook's plans and protocols for the start of the school year.

Please know that I am here to discuss any of your questions and concerns, so do not hesitate to reach out as we navigate this journey together.

Sincerely,
Rachel Sechler
Interim Head of School