

Dear Families,

As we closely monitor the COVID-19 cases in Benton County we are all wondering what this means for Ashbrook. Please read the communication from the Benton County Health Department below. In summary, we are monitoring the cases from the one-week spike and in-person classes will continue through next Friday, October 2. If the metrics released next week are still high, teachers will prepare students for the transition to online, send home materials on Friday, October 2, and online classes would start Monday, October 5. We will continue under the assumption that we will return to the building once the metrics are met again for 3 consecutive weeks until we hear otherwise.

PS/PK classes will continue to run in-person under their Emergency Childcare License regardless.

As always, please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Rachel Sechler  
Interim Head of School

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**To: Schools in Benton County**  
**From: Benton County Health's School Reopening Review Team**  
**Date: September 23, 2020**

**School Re-opening Metrics and how it may affect in-person instruction.**

This has been a week of uncertainty for Benton County schools. We know that the latest community metrics from the Oregon Health Authority have raised a lot of questions and concerns.

Please view the community metrics for Benton County from the Oregon Health Authority at <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/DISEASESCONDITIONS/DISEASESAZ/Emerging%20Respiratory%20Infections/Weekly-County-Metrics.pdf>. The key metrics to note are the cases per 100,000 people, which has increased to 36 per 100,000 people; and the test positivity rate, which has increased to 6.6%.

Please also review the metrics explainer at <https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/healthsafety/Documents/Following%20the%20Metrics%20Visual.pdf>.

**What does this mean for schools in Benton County?**

We have requested clarification from the Oregon Department of Education and Oregon Health Authority regarding the protocol that schools should follow if they have already begun in-person learning for K-3 students or under the remote and rural allowance.

Until we receive clarification, we recommend the following:

1. Schools that are currently operating in-person instruction for K-3 students can continue in-person learning for the week of 9/28-10/02.

2. Schools that are currently operating in-person instruction based on the remote or rural status allowance can continue in-person learning for the week of 9/28-10/02.
3. Schools that are not already operating in-person instruction for K-3 students or other students under the remote or rural status cannot begin in-person learning and should continue comprehensive distance learning.
4. **All schools should prepare for a transition to comprehensive distance learning and pay close attention to the data released next week. If the community metrics are not met for a second week in a row, you should expect to transition to comprehensive distance learning.**

Please be aware that the data on which these metrics are based may change over the coming days. Both the number of cases in Benton County and the test positivity rate may be retroactively adjusted, either up or down, based on additional information about the county of residence of cases, and potential delays in the receipt of test results by the Oregon Health Authority. What we can do is to continue monitoring the metrics week to week, and review past weeks' data to identify if any metrics have retroactively changed.

Thank you for partnering with us during these challenging times. We will continue to work with you to protect the health and safety of our teachers, staff, and students in Benton County.