

Bend-La Pine Schools

Continuation of In-Person Instruction

2021-22

Executive Summary – Dr. Steven Cook

Updated, February 8, 2022

Table of Contents

Local Decision Making	3
Requirements in State Statute and Rule	3
2021-22 Additions to Existing Rules	4
Overview and Authority	7
COVID-19 Health & Safety	8
Equity	8
Advisory Health & Safety Strategies	10
Continuation of In-Person Instruction	11
Appropriate Accommodations for Children	12
Attendance	12
Cleaning Protocols	12
Cohorting	13
Contact Tracing	13
Equity	14
Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette	15
Exposure, Isolation, & Quarantine	15
Masking - Indoors Educational Hours	16
Masking - Outdoors School Day	16
Masking - Athletics & Activities	16
Masking - School/Staff Penalties	17
Notification	17
Pre-Entry Screenings & Contact Tracing	18
Physical Distancing	18
School Schedule	19
Testing	19
Vaccinations	19
Ventilation	21
Visitors & Volunteers	22
Next Steps	22

Bend-La Pine Schools
Continuation of In-Person Instruction
2021-22 School Year

Executive Summary
Dr. Steven Cook

Re: Recommendations for 2021-2022 School Year Based on Ready Schools, Safe Learners Update

Date: August 10, 2021

Updated: February 8, 2022

The Oregon Department of Education (ODE), in collaboration with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), released the [Ready Schools, Safe Learners Resiliency Framework \(RSSLRF\) for the 2021-22 School Year](#) on August 2, 2021. The RSSL-RF states that school districts will make decisions with their boards to determine local implementation of COVID-19 mitigation measures.

Local Decision Making

In general, RSSL-RF states that decisions regarding school health and safety reside with school and district officials. Local Public Health Authorities (LPHAs) are vital partners to advise and consult on health and safety procedures. Except where compliance is mandated by existing state law, the Resiliency Framework is advisory. Where the framework does not require a specific action by a school district, a district may choose whether to consider or implement advisory information or recommendations.

Requirements in State Statute and Rule

Existing state law and rule include the following ***requirements*** for schools and districts:

Operational Plan: Schools and districts must periodically submit to ODE a plan for operation during the 2021-2022 school year. The plan is similar, but smaller in scale, to the Operational Blueprint. The plan should be informed by community engagement and posted on the school district website ([OAR 581-022-0105](#)).

Face Coverings Required Indoors, During the School Day: On August 2, 2021, the Oregon Health Authority implemented a new statewide rule ([OAR 333-019-1015](#)) requiring face coverings in all indoor school settings, both public and private, for all individuals two years and older, including all students, staff, contractors, volunteers and visitors. (This applies to summer school programming.) OHA has committed to review this rule monthly. On February 7, 2022, OHA announced it will lift the mask rule (333-019-1015) in schools on March 31, 2022.

The Oregon Health Authority has adopted permanent rules requiring masks in school settings. The rule adopted January 28, 2022 replaces a temporary one that was set to expire the same day.

Students able, but unwilling to wear a face covering indoors, during the school day, will be denied entry and provided a free public education through Bend-La Pine Schools Online.

COVID-19 Recovery Services: For students experiencing disabilities who are eligible for special education, Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) teams must consider the need for individualized COVID-19 recovery services. This includes notifying parents, considering the need, and documenting decisions related to services at each initial IEP meeting or earlier, where appropriate (RSSL-RF, August 3, 2021).

Face Coverings Required on Public Transportation: The Centers for Disease Controls and Prevention ([CDC](#)) [order for mandatory](#) use of face coverings on public transit applies to school buses until lifted by the federal government and cannot be waived by state or local authorities (CDC, Issued 2/1/2021).

2021–2022 Additions to Existing Rules

Educator Vaccinations

On August 25, 2021, OHA adopted OAR [333-019-1030](#) COVID-19 Vaccination Requirements for Teachers and School Staff. ODE and OHA have created a set of [FAQs](#) to answer district and school questions about this rule.

Effective October 18, 2021, teachers, school staff and volunteers may not teach, work, learn, study, assist, observe, or volunteer at a school unless they are fully vaccinated or have provided documentation of a medical or religious exception. And, a school may not employ, contract with, or accept the volunteer services of teachers, school staff or volunteers who are teaching, working, learning, studying, assisting, observing, or volunteering at a school unless the teachers or school staff are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or have a documented medical or religious exception. This is also true for school-based program staff and volunteers.

The rule also includes those who are not employed but are otherwise engaged to provide goods or services to a school or school-based program through any formal or informal agreement, whether compensated or uncompensated; who provide goods or services at or for a school based program that includes direct or indirect contact with children or students. It does not include short-term visitors or individuals making deliveries. It also does not include district office, facility or ESD staff who never work at or volunteer in a school setting.

Individuals who request a medical or religious exception must use the OHA forms. Schools that grant an exception to the vaccination requirement must take reasonable steps to ensure that unvaccinated teachers, school staff and volunteers are protected from contracting and spreading COVID-19.

Face Coverings

Oregon is placing a priority on ensuring that every student is able to attend school in-person for the entire school year. Students are required to attend school, which is a congregate setting where COVID-19 can spread easily if precautions are not taken. Universal and correct use of face coverings keeps students learning in-person. ODE, OHA, the CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) all agree that returning to full-time, in-person learning is best for our children. The CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report emphasizes the importance of face coverings in schools in the context of COVID-19 variants. The CDC guidance on Types of Masks and Respirators has additional details about masks and respirators that protect against transmission of COVID-19.

On November 23, 2021, OHA adopted an updated temporary rule OAR 333-019-1025 requiring everyone age five (5) or older to wear a face covering anywhere indoors, and removing the requirement to wear face coverings outdoors. OHA has completed an FAQ for this rule which has additional detail and information. This rule applies to public, private, parochial, charter, youth corrections education programs (YCEP) and juvenile detention education programs (JDEP) or alternative educational programs offering kindergarten through grade 12 or any part thereof. The rules require the following:

- All individuals 5 years of age and older to wear a face covering while indoors in a K–12 school, during school hours. Certain accommodations for medical needs or disability may be necessary, and certain conditions for exceptions are detailed in the OAR 333- 019-1015.
 - Children under 5 years who are learning in preschool classrooms that operate in school settings are not required to wear face coverings. In any early learning program serving 0- to 5-year-olds, students are not required to wear a face covering.
- All individuals aged two (2) or older who are using public transportation, including riding a school bus operated by a public or private school, must wear a face covering.

OAR 333-019-1015 and OAR 333-019-1025 do not require a person to wear a face covering indoors when playing competitive extracurricular sport at any level, nor when officiating a competitive sport that requires a high level of physical exertion by the official. OARs 333-019-1015 and 333-019-1025 require all spectators and officials who are not actively officiating at a high level of physical exertion at competitive sport events of any level to wear a face covering.

On November 30, 2021, the Children and Families Administration released an interim final rule with comment (IFC) which adds new provisions to the Head Start Program Performance Standards to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. This IFC requires universal masking for all individuals two years of age and older, with some noted exceptions. Further information is available in ODE's Considering Reasonable Accommodation of Face Covering Requirements for Head Start and Oregon Prekindergarten.

When students falter in consistently and correctly wearing a face covering, center grace and patience and reteach the expectation. Schools and teams should continually provide instruction and positive reinforcement to help all students adapt to the changes in school facilities.

In the case that a student or family chooses not to wear a face covering for reasons other than medical need or disability, schools should follow district processes to determine how to respond keeping in mind both the responsibility for health and safety and the student's need to access education. Conversations should be progressive and lead to resolution that ideally does not involve suspension. Schools cannot serve a student in-person if they or their family choose not to wear a face covering. Schools may offer a remote or online school option for the student.

A face shield may be worn instead of a face covering if an individual cannot wear a face covering for medical reasons. Face coverings are preferred over face shields, as they provide better containment of small aerosols that can be produced while talking.

A face covering is NOT a substitute for physical distancing. Face coverings are required and maintaining at least 3 feet of physical distance to the extent possible, especially when indoors or outdoors around people from different households.

Group face covering breaks or full classroom face covering breaks are best done outdoors where ventilation and physical distancing are maximized. Outside of brief outdoor and physically distanced "mask breaks," whenever face coverings are not required by OAR 333-019-1015 or OAR 333-019-1025, they continue to be strongly recommended to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

On February 7, 2022, OHA announced it will lift the mask rule (333-019-1015) in schools on March 31, 2022. Other COVID-19 mitigation protocols (e.g., physical distancing, airflow/ventilation, outdoor face coverings, etc.) remain local decisions.

As of March 31, 2022 the decision to require universal masking in school settings will rest with decision makers in school districts, charter schools, private schools, and local public health authorities.

Masks will continue to be required on public transportation, which includes school buses until lifted by the federal government and cannot be waived by state or local authorities.

Individualized COVID-19 Recovery Services

OAR 581-015-2229 requires that districts and programs ensure that IEP teams determine the need for Individualized COVID-19 Recovery Services for each eligible student based on their individual circumstances.

Districts are required to:

- Ensure that the IEP team for each eligible student considers the need for Individualized COVID-19 Recovery Services at least at each initial IEP meeting and each regularly scheduled annual review meeting while OAR 581-015-2229 is in effect.

- Provide written notice to the parents of each eligible student regarding the opportunity for the IEP team to meet to consider Individualized COVID-19 Recovery Services.
- Provide written notice to the parent and/or adult student with a disability regarding the determination of need for Individualized COVID-19 Recovery Services.

Additionally, schools and districts ***must***:

Maintain a Communicable Disease Management Plan ([OAR 581-022-2220](#)), exclude staff or students from school who have been exposed to COVID-19 ([OAR 333-019-0010](#)), maintain health care and space that isolates sick or injured students ([OAR 581-022-2320](#)), meet all standard instructional time requirements in Division 22 ([OAR-581-022-0102\(30\)](#)) and ([OAR 581-022-2320](#)), complete an independent adoption of any digital instructional materials used as core curriculum ([OAR 581-022-2350](#)), administer state assessments as required by state and federal law (**ORS 329.485**; [OAR 581-022-2100](#)), reinstate the 10-day drop rule for enrollment ([OAR 581-023-0006\(4\)](#)), attendance and reporting practices ([OAR 581-023-0006\(1\)\(f\)](#)) and notifications (**ORS 339.071**), and submit Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services plan to ODE ([OAR 581-022-0105](#)) by August 27, 2021 to fulfill the requirements of the American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER III) State plan. Districts are required to update the plan as needed and to review it every six months to remain in compliance with ESSER III regulations. ([OAR 581-022-0106](#)). A similar date and submission process for public charter schools is communicated to charter school leaders each time an update is needed. Additional rules can be found in the RSSL-RF document.

Overview & Authority

Changes in the amount of community transmission of COVID-19, the severity of illness associated with new variants of the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19, or the availability of vaccination for children younger than 12 years old may warrant changes to the state's recovery efforts during the school year. Bend-La Pine Schools' Operational Plan will be updated to reflect any changes.

Bend-La Pine Schools will continue to monitor guidance updates from the CDC, ODE, OHA, and DCPH to align this recommendation framework as needed.

Decisions about when or how Bend-La Pine Schools (BLS) will respond to an outbreak of COVID-19 involve collaboration across multiple partners. If part of or an entire school needs to close for in-person instruction as a matter of public health, it is important that educators, students, families and the general public have a clear understanding of how decisions are made and who makes those decisions.

When determining how to best support in-person learning during the 2021-22 school year, Bend-La Pine Schools will work in a collaborative manner with the Deschutes County Health

Services (DCHS) as the Local Public Health Authority (LPHA). DCHS is a vital partner in advising and consulting on health and safety concerns with Bend-La Pine Schools officials. Additionally, district administrators will continue to gather feedback on operational decisions and actions from the Bend-La Pine Schools Health Consultants Team, consisting of local pediatricians, nurses, and public health officials.

COVID-19 Health and Safety

As Bend-La Pine Schools plans for the 2021-22 in-person school year, it is important to remember that:

- Keeping students in full-time, in-person instruction is a priority.
- Our communities will be living with the virus until there is widespread immunity.
- COVID-19 continues to change with new variants, our knowledge of mitigation efforts grows over time. For these reasons the guidance for responding to COVID-19 also changes.
- Currently, the best practices as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Oregon Health Authority, and Deschutes County Health Services for protecting individuals from COVID-19 are vaccination for those eligible, physical distancing, face coverings, ventilation and airflow, hand hygiene, and staying home if ill or exposed to someone with COVID-19.
- Opportunity for transmission decreases with each mitigation effort that is implemented.

As Bend-La Pine Schools plans and implements the recommendations included in the Resiliency Framework, the school district will necessarily need to consider a continuum of risk levels when all recommendations cannot be fully implemented. This may include implementing more restrictive protocols and measures as conditions warrant. These measures could be implemented at a single classroom, school, or district wide.

District leadership will use Planning for COVID-19 Scenarios in Schools for COVID-19 as a guide for response to related illness events.

Equity

Bend-La Pine Schools is committed to promoting educational systems that support every child's identity, health and well-being, strengths and needs. Bend-La Pine Schools makes every effort to apply an equity-informed, anti-racist and anti-oppressive lens across all sections of this operational plan.

Bend-La Pine Schools remains committed to the guiding principles used throughout the COVID-19 pandemic to generate collective action and leadership for efforts to respond to COVID-19 across the school district and communities in Central Oregon. These principles are updated to reflect the current context and in conjunction with current strategic goals:

- **Ensure safety and wellness.** Prioritizing basic needs such as food, shelter, wellness, supportive relationships and support for mental, social and emotional health of students

and staff. Bend-La Pine Schools' employs a Director of Social, Emotional Learning, and Mental Wellness; 25 student success educational assistants; 6 student success instructors; 31 student success clinician coordinators; a Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion with a team of over 40 language specialists and culturally-specific family liaisons; and 22 nurses to support mental, social, and emotional health of students and staff, 14 Family Access Network advocates and 1 homeless liaison. Bend-La Pine Schools plans to continue to make free meals available to all students every school day and continue robust offerings of clubs, athletics and activities for students.

- **Center health and well-being.** Acknowledging the health and mental health impacts this past year, commit to creating learning opportunities that foster creative expression, make space for reflection and connection and center on the needs of the whole child rather than solely emphasizing academic achievement. In addition, we acknowledge the assets and strengths of our families, and the disparate impact this pandemic has had on different portions of our community. We strive to engage families actively as partners in this commitment.

Staff use Collaborative Problem Solving (CPS) tools that give students the ability to identify and articulate their concerns, hear the concerns of others, and take each others' concerns into account in working toward mutually satisfactory solutions. Bullying prevention and emotional growth messaging is weaved throughout our instruction. Clubs are active in all of our schools, offering students opportunities for involvement in numerous groups including Where Everyone Belongs (WEB), Robotics and Uni-cycling – to name a few. Bend-La Pine Schools staffs schools in ways that ensure students have access to mental and behavioral health support at school: 37 counselors meet with students each day at our middle and high schools, and 16 school psychologists provide student support and advocacy at all elementary, middle and high schools, two full-time therapists support our highest needs students at schools in the region.

- **Cultivate connection and relationship.** Reconnecting with one another after a year of separation can occur through quality learning experiences and deep interpersonal relationships among families, students and staff.
- **Prioritize equity.** Recognizing the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on our Black, indigenous, and other people of color (BIPOC) communities; students experiencing disabilities; students living in rural communities; and students and families navigating poverty and houselessness, the district will apply an equity informed, anti-racist, and anti-oppressive lens to promote culturally sustaining and revitalizing educational systems that support every child.
- **Innovate.** Returning to school is an opportunity to improve teaching and learning by iterating on new instructional strategies, rethinking learning environments and investing in creative approaches to address unfinished learning.

Advisory Health & Safety Strategies

Key health and safety measures that have shifted from “required” to “advisory”, back to “required”, back to local control for reducing the spread of COVID-19 in Bend-La Pine Schools were reviewed with a number of district stakeholder groups for input and comment throughout the pandemic. These groups included the Bend-La Pine Schools Executive Administrators and School Principals, Bend-La Pine Schools District Safety Leadership Team, Bend-La Pine Schools District and School Safety Committees (staff and administrators), Bend Education Association (BEA) and Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA) leaders.

Additional consultation and input was provided by the Deschutes County Health Services and local medical care providers.

Community input received via email, phone calls, during board meeting public comment and via Board Leadership Listening Sessions, has also informed our plan.

Bend-La Pine Schools

Continuation of In-Person Instruction, Fall 2021

Schools are an important part of the infrastructure of communities, as they provide safe and supportive learning environments for students, employ teachers and other staff, and enable parents, guardians, and caregivers to work. Many students, staff, and caregivers are either missing or have had interruptions in services due to school building closures and virtual and hybrid learning. Evidence suggests that many K–12 schools that have strictly implemented prevention strategies have been able to safely open for in-person instruction and remain open.

Bend-La Pine Schools has, and will continue to follow, [guidance](#) for prevention strategies to help protect students, teachers, and staff, and slow the spread of COVID-19. We believe that with these prevention strategies in place and adhered to, our schools can safely remain open for in-person instruction and we can fulfill our plan for students to attend school in-person, full time, five days a week for the entire school year, while being mindful of best practices for student and staff health and safety.

This document provides an operational strategy for safe delivery of in-person instruction in K–12 schools through the integration of a package of prevention and control components:

1. Consistent implementation of layered prevention strategies to reduce COVID-19 transmission in schools
2. Consideration of indicators of community transmission to reflect levels of community risk
3. Phased prevention strategies based on levels of community transmission

The following public health efforts provide additional layers of COVID-19 protection in schools:

- Provide access to testing to identify individuals with a COVID-19 infection to limit transmission and outbreaks
- Vaccination for teachers, staff, and students as soon as possible

Initial public review of this plan took place on August 10, 2021 and again on February 8, 2022 at Bend-La Pine Schools Board of Directors business meetings and will be reviewed, as needed, to mitigate COVID-19 spread and avoid school closures.

<p>Appropriate Accommodations for Children</p>	<p>Administrators should consider adaptations and alternatives to prevention strategies when serving people with disabilities and/or students with academic, social, and emotional needs that require intervention and support while maintaining efforts to protect all children and staff from COVID-19.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● For students receiving special education services, decisions are informed according to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). ● Decisions are made on a case-by-case basis by the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 plan teams. <p>Staff will ensure student accommodations create access to the same consistent learning opportunities all students have.</p> <p>Staff will consider allowing students with disabilities or accommodations to continue in person instruction as daily routines and social interactions are key to meeting their individual learning needs.</p>
<p>Attendance</p>	<p>A student's academic performance and/or attendance during the spring of 2020 or the 2020-21 school year should not be the sole determinant for decision making.</p> <p>The 10-day drop rule will be reinstated and schools and districts must use the active and inactive roll as required under OAR 581-023-0006(4).</p>
<p>Cleaning Protocols</p>	<p>District facilities will be cleaned, sanitized, and disinfected daily using District sanctioned, EPA List N approved products for COVID-19.</p> <p>Health rooms and isolation rooms will be disinfected thoroughly by the custodial staff after any student or staff member with COVID-19 symptoms leaves the room.</p> <p>Transportation staff will regularly clean and disinfect buses using the approved cleaning and disinfecting products and equipment on which they have been trained.</p>

<p>Cohorting</p>	<p>Cohorting refers to establishing a consistent grouping of students that stays together for a significant portion of the school day.</p> <p>This mitigation strategy helps to minimize the number of close contacts in an exposure event between students and staff by intentionally limiting the possible number of interactions students may experience during the day. Cohorting will be a strategy implemented by the Bend-La Pine Schools when conditions warrant elevating the mitigation strategies due to increased prevalence of community and in-school transmission of COVID -19 cases.</p> <p>In the event that we would need to elevate our cohorting strategies, students would not be placed into full-time cohort groups based on any demographic or disability criteria (e.g., students with complex medical needs, students with IEPs, students receiving language services, etc.).</p> <p>Schools may consider creating small groups within cohorts around skills and instructional needs.</p>
<p>Contact Tracing</p>	<p>Bend-La Pine Schools encourages staff and families to notify the school if they or their student have symptoms of COVID-19, a positive test, or were exposed to someone with COVID-19 within the last 14 days. Per HIPAA guidelines, Bend-La Pine Schools will maintain privacy and confidentiality.</p> <p>Students, teachers, and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as influenza (flu) or COVID-19, should stay home and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care.</p> <p>To the best of staffs' abilities, Bend-La Pine Schools will alert families if their student has been identified to have had prolonged contact with a positive case.</p>

	<p>In the absence of Universal Masking, schools will return to using the general exposure definition: Having been within 6 feet of a confirmed or presumptive COVID-19 case for 15 minutes or more within one day, or having been in contact with the infectious secretions of a confirmed or presumptive COVID-19 case.</p> <p>In the absence of universal masking, schools will not be able to use the Test to Stay Protocol to allow students and staff to attend school during a quarantine period. Universal use of face coverings remains a prerequisite for the Test to Stay Protocol. Diagnostic testing will remain accessible to all schools regardless of mask use.</p> <p>General quarantine guidance for students and staff who return on day 6 of their quarantine will include the continued need to wear a well fitted mask for days 6 through 10 of their quarantine.</p>
Equity	<p>Health equity considerations related to the school setting are a critical part of decision-making and have been considered in Bend-La Pine Schools' updated guidance for schools.</p> <p>School administrators can promote health equity by ensuring all students, teachers, and staff have resources to support physical and mental health. They will also work with parents to understand concerns for their students..</p> <p>According to the CDC, people living in rural areas, people with disabilities, immigrants, and people who identify as American Indian/Alaska Native, Black or African American, and Hispanic or Latino have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19; these disparities have also emerged among children.</p> <p>Bend-La Pine Schools' promotes equity in learning and health, particularly for groups disproportionately affected by COVID-19.</p>

<p>Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette</p>	<p>Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette, such as covering coughs and sneezes, is encouraged for staff, students and visitors. Hand sanitation stations are provided throughout all district facilities.</p> <p>Safe handwashing procedures will be posted at Bend-La Pine Schools' sites including bathroom washing stations and classroom sinks.</p> <p>Bend-La Pine Schools will continue to implement protocols and systems to ensure access to soap, water, and alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Schools will prioritize handwashing with soap and water after students or staff use the restroom and throughout the day as appropriate.</p>
<p>Exposure, Quarantine & Isolation</p>	<p>When an individual has been identified as a close contact to a person with COVID-19, has primary COVID-19 symptoms, or is COVID-19 positive, the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Team will follow OHA's investigative guidelines and ODE's COVID-19 scenarios for quarantine or isolation.</p> <p>School and department administrators are required to exclude staff and students from school whom they have reason to suspect have been exposed to COVID-19. (OAR 333- 019-0010).</p> <p>Isolation protocol will follow state and local health guidelines for response to related illness events.</p> <p>Schools will accommodate students returning on days 6-10 of isolation. Students in days 6-10 of isolation will eat and drink in a designated area and wear a well-fitted mask (KN95 or medical grade mask), per the CDC and OHA recommendations.</p> <p>After March 31, 2022: Adults and students 5-17 who are up-to-date with their COVID-19 vaccination as defined by CDC are not required to quarantine per current state guidance.</p>

	<p>See the <u>COVID-19 Exclusion Summary Guide</u> for exclusion and isolation protocols for sick students and staff identified at the time of arrival or during the school day.</p>
<p>Masking - Indoors Educational Hours</p>	<p>Bend-La Pine Schools will continue to follow all state rules regarding indoor and outdoor masking.</p> <p>Masks are required to be worn in all indoor shared school and work settings, during school hours, for all individuals two years and older, including all students, staff, contractors, volunteers and visitors, per the Oregon Health Authority’s statewide rule (<u>OAR 333-019-1015</u>), through March 31, 2022. Staff and volunteers with medical or religious exceptions will continue to be required to follow district protocols regarding masking and testing, after March 31, 2022.</p> <p>Group mask breaks, full classroom mask breaks, department staff mask breaks are best done outdoors where ventilation and physical distancing are maximized.</p> <p>Masks will be made available at schools and district buildings.</p> <p>Certain accommodations for medical needs or disability may be necessary.</p>
<p>Masking - Indoors School Programs</p>	<p>Bend-La Pine Schools will continue to follow all state rules regarding indoor masking.</p>
<p>Masking - Outdoors School Day</p>	<p>Bend-La Pine Schools will continue to follow all state rules regarding outdoor masking.</p>
<p>Masking - Athletics & Activities</p>	<p>Bend-La Pine Schools indoor and outdoor athletics and activities will continue to follow all OSAA guidance. Schools and athletic programs will adhere to facility capacity requirements, per state and local fire marshal regulations.</p>

<p>Masking - School/Staff Penalties</p>	<p>OHA and ODE will refer complaints to OROSHA for investigation under the Oregon Safe Employment Act.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● OROSHA would enforce under the <u>Oregon Safe Employment Act</u> and penalty structure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The process is complaint driven. ○ Failure to enforce: Fine based on serious violations, including an assessment for size of the business in line with the Oregon Safe Employment Act; \$100 to \$2,600. ○ Willful negligence: Fine based on size of the business, and would likely be on the higher end because of the larger size of many school districts; \$8,900 to \$126,749. ○ Highest penalty: Would be for employers with a willful violation, and having more than 251 employees. ○ Daily penalty for continued noncompliance: Could result in a failure to abate the citation with a minimum \$250 and a maximum \$12,675. <p>Licensed educators who fail to obey this rule may face additional penalties, including, but not limited to, loss of license.</p>
<p>Notification</p>	<p>When schools or departments become aware that a person with COVID-19 has been present in our facilities, we will communicate with identified affected school families and/or staff.</p> <p>During surges the COVID-19 Response and Recovery team may prioritize their efforts on identifying positive school cases and isolating the positive case. Instead of notifying individual staff or students, entire classes or groups may be notified of possible exposure.</p>

<p>Pre-Entry Screenings & Contact Tracing</p>	<p>Staff will follow procedures established regarding observation of students/staff/volunteers with COVID-19 symptoms.</p> <p>Students/staff identified as close contacts to a COVID-19 positive case will follow ODE/OHA Planning for COVID-19 Scenarios in Schools Guidance.</p> <p>Bend-La Pine Schools will continue to complete contact tracing, as conditions allow, following guidance from local and state public health.</p>
<p>Physical Distancing</p>	<p>Staff will promote physical distancing by doing the following when possible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support physical distancing in all daily activities and instruction, maintaining at least 3 feet between individuals to the extent possible. Maintaining physical distancing should not preclude return to full-time, in-person instruction for all students. When it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least 3 feet, it is especially important to layer multiple other prevention strategies, such as wearing face coverings. ● Consider physical distancing requirements when setting up learning and other spaces, arranging spaces and groups to allow for and encourage at least 3 feet of physical distancing. ● Physical distancing of desks, floor markers, and one-way traffic are no longer required, but personal distance preferences will continue to be respected. ● Students and staff who have not been vaccinated are strongly advised to maintain physical distance (avoiding hugs, handshakes and prolonged proximity under 3 feet to the extent possible) in addition to wearing a face mask. ● Meals may be consumed outdoors, to the extent possible. <p>Minimize time standing in lines and take steps to ensure that required distance between students is maintained.</p>

	<p>Students, staff, and visitors will be asked to be mindful of physical distancing.</p>
School Schedule	<p>Bend-La Pine Schools plans to remain open for in person instruction five days per week. For students who must be absent due to illness or school closure, due to COVID-19 spread, the District will provide access to learning.</p>
Testing	<p>The district will offer COVID-19 testing opportunities for students or staff who develop symptoms at school or are exposed to COVID-19 at school.</p> <p>The district will continue to partner with local medical professionals and the local health authority to share information with families and staff regarding testing site locations.</p>

Vaccinations

Bend-La Pine Schools recognizes that the best approach to preventing the spread of COVID-19 is a layered defense of protective measures, with the COVID-19 vaccination being the best defense in protecting individuals from contracting COVID-19 and preventing the spread of the virus to others.

Governor Kate Brown used her emergency executive authority to issue a requirement that all educators and volunteers in Oregon's K-12 schools be fully vaccinated by October 18, 2021. Staff and volunteers with medical or religious exceptions will continue to be required to follow district protocols regarding masking and testing, after March 31, 2022.

In the event of a COVID-19 exposure, students and staff may voluntarily disclose their vaccine status and the quarantine time period will not be required, so long as the individuals remain asymptomatic.

Bend-La Pine Schools acknowledges that the opportunity for vaccination is currently only approved for adults and children ages 5 and older. Additionally, some staff, students, and community members may not, or cannot be, vaccinated due to medical, religious or personal reasons. Bend-La Pine Schools will partner with medical partners to provide space, through Facility Use Agreements, for COVID-19 vaccination clinics at no charge.

Bend-La Pine Schools will support communication of COVID-19 vaccination clinic information to staff, students and families.

Those age 15 or older are encouraged to make health decisions in partnership with their parents/guardians.

CDC guidance states that people who are up to date with their COVID-19 vaccine and do not have COVID-19 symptoms do not need to quarantine after an exposure to someone with COVID-19. Regardless of vaccination status, individuals who are exposed to a case of

	<p>COVID19 should wear a well-fitting mask around others for 10 days from the date of the last close contact and watch for symptoms of COVID-19.</p>
<p>Ventilation</p>	<p>Bend-La Pine Schools will continue to ensure effective ventilation and improve the indoor air quality in schools and facilities by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continuing to increase the amount of fresh outside air that is introduced into the system. ● Exhausting air from indoors to the outside. ● Maintaining a climate level that balances comfort and safety within a classroom and building. ● Cleaning the air that is recirculated indoors with effective filtration methods (HEPA filters) to remove virus-containing particles from the air. District maintenance staff will continue to monitor and replace air filters in buildings as needed to maintain appropriate levels of filtration. ● Adhering to fire code regulations when opening doors and windows for additional air circulation. Fire rated doors will not be propped open for air circulation purposes. ● Continuing to monitor air quality during wildfire season to provide guidance on air circulation requirements in schools and buildings, to mitigate hazardous smoke/air from entering building HVAC systems. ● Air handlers run with MERV-13 filters. <p>Per OSHA temporary rule, when outdoor air quality index exceeds 101:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Windows will be closed. <p>When outdoor air quality index exceeds 201:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students are required to remain indoors for PE, recess, lunch, etc.

<p>Visitors & Volunteers</p>	<p>Bend-La Pine Schools will allow limited approved volunteer access when COVID-19 community transmission conditions allow, per Superintendent, or designee, approval and KCA-AR.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools should not limit access for <u>direct service providers</u>, but can ensure compliance with school visitor policies. • Schools should continue to emphasize the importance of staying home when sick. Anyone, including volunteers, who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as flu or <u>COVID-19</u>, should stay home and seek testing and care. <p>Schools may allow visitors for approved events, with mitigation plans in place, after school hours.</p> <p>Staff and volunteers with medical or religious exceptions will continue to be required to follow district protocols regarding masking and testing, after March 31, 2022.</p>
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Next Steps

When OAR 333-019-1015 expires on March 31, 2022, indoor masking will become strongly recommended, rather than required for all students and for those staff with proof of COVID-19 vaccine.

Masking is one of several layers of protections that we have in place in our schools to help ensure the health of our students during this pandemic. Ventilation, handwashing, staying home and getting tested when sick, contact tracing in combination with quarantine and isolation, and cleaning and disinfection are also important layers of prevention to keep schools safe. Above all, vaccination is the greatest tool available to fight COVID-19 and keep students in their classrooms.

Additionally, upon reinstatement of local control of decision-making, the district would continue to partner with local public health authorities to monitor both community rates of transmission and in-school or in-department transmission activity. In cases where localized transmission rates elevate in schools, district administrators, partnering with local health, may institute more restrictive interventions on a case-by-case basis as conditions are warranted. These circumstances could include but are not limited to: returning to required masking, increasing of cleaning and hand washing strategies, tighter cohorting practices, and returning to remote learning in cases where significant transmission is prevalent.