



7/13/2021

Dear Students, Parents, and Staff,

In late June, the Oregon Department of Education issued its Ready Schools, Safe Learners guidance for the 2021-22 school year. The new guidance allows local control over nearly all practices related to preventing COVID-19 in our schools.

Here's the Sweet Home School District's plan for summer school and the 2021-22 school year. Please know that these plans could change at any time depending on case counts and variants in our community, and they are also dependent on state, federal, or CDC guidance changes.

The Sweet Home School District will:

- Educate our staff and students regarding updated OHA/CDC health and safety practices and requirements under ODE for the 2021-22 school year.
- Allow students and staff the **option** to wear face-coverings (masks). The district will not require the use of face-coverings by students or staff, and the district welcomes those who would like to use face-coverings.
- Continue to require face-coverings on school buses. This safety practice is a **federal order** under the CDC. The CDC mandates the use of face-coverings on public transit (which applies to school buses) until lifted by the federal government. This order cannot be waived by state or local authorities.
- Continue to practice 3-foot social distancing (to the maximum extent possible) and practice enhanced handwashing and cleaning in all school facilities.
- Continue maintaining contact logs.
- Continue working with Linn County if an outbreak occurs to implement quarantine and contact tracing protocols.

If a significant COVID-19 outbreak occurs, we will have to be prepared to take additional action on implementing more enhanced health and safety protocols to keep our schools open. Keeping our schools open and safe is our chief priority.

I have confidence that in working together, we can continue to take additional steps on the road back to normalcy for our students, staff, and community. Sweet Home is a resilient and supportive community. Together, we will make the 2021-22 school year great!

Sincerely,

Tom Yahraes, Superintendent