

Changes to school reopening plan

Dear Jefferson County families and staff members,

We have received significant revisions to 'Ready Schools, Safe Learners' guidance.

The updated guidance is 69 pages in length and contains 65 changes, additions, revisions and clarifications to the previous guidelines.

The most significant updates include requirements for all students and staff to wear masks at school; and cohorts—groups of people who interact closely—may not exceed 100 people in a week.

In other words, the group of students and staff which any one student interacts with closely during their week may not be more than 100.

In June, schools and districts in Oregon were asked to plan to reopen schools in the fall under one of three models:

- 1: On-site model.
- 2: Hybrid model—some time at school and some time on a dis-



tance learning model.

3: Distance Learning model.

These three choices, or combinations of these choices, remain the same, but the new guidance must be reviewed carefully to determine impacts on these options for reopening our schools.

District leaders, Health Department leaders, school administrators, teachers, school nurses and support staff will review the shifts in the guidance and work to get a draft plan for reopening to families by this Friday, July 31.

This is later than we had hoped to distribute our draft plan for input, but the late changes from the state require us to revisit our plan-

ning in great detail.

Athletics

On another note, the Oregon Schools Activities Association released updated information on athletics and activities for the school year.

The most significant change is moving the date of the first athletic contest back approximately one month, and continued precautions related to football competition.

Finally, we continue to ask for additional feedback from our community to assist in the planning process. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey. Go to the site:

jcsd.k12.or.us

We appreciate your support during these unique times. I hope each of you are healthy and well.

Sincerely,
Ken Parshall, district superintendent.

Some services available during shutdown

During the tribal organization closure, you can reach the Human Resources Department at 541-553-3262 during the day. Cheryl Tom, department director, is available by email at cheryl.tom@wstribes.org

The Managed Care program can be reached at:

managedcare@wstribes.org

Vital Statistics is available for funeral grants by calling dispatch at 541-553-1171.

Tribal Court is available only for daily court hearings for criminal cases, bail and bonds, juvenile preliminary hearings and restraining orders and elder protection orders.

Please contact:

eliah.sorrelhorse@wstribes.org

The Early Childhood Education Center provides limited daycare services for essential employees.

No visitors are allowed—access to parents only. Please contact: c.moses@wstribes.org jodi.begay@wstribes.org

Treaty: 1865 document to be repealed

(Continued from page 3)

“If ever a fraud was villainously perpetrated on any set of people, red or white, this was, in my opinion, certainly one of the most glaring...”

In more recent decades, various court decisions—a notable ex-

ample is the 1969 decision by Judge Robert Belloni, in *U.S. v. Oregon*—have found the provisions of the Treaty of 1855 to be the binding law of the land.

Federal agencies have concurred. For example, a 1997 U.S. Forest Service report concludes:

“The Treaty of 1855 remains the only document describing the rights of the Warm Springs tribes. As a matter of policy, the Forest Service recognizes only the Treaty with the Tribes of Middle Oregon, 1855.”

— Dave McMechan

St. Charles Health Services feeling covid impact

July brought interesting ups and downs on the Covid-19 front. Our hospitalizations had stabilized in mid July from a high of 11 early in the month, but positive test results in all three of our counties continue to climb.

Sadly, we also experienced the first deaths of Central Oregon residents from the virus.

In addition, Deschutes County reported the first known outbreak in a local memory care facility.

Our team was happy to provide testing and other support as part of the response effort, and has been proud of how Mt. Bachelor Memory Care has handled the difficult situation. Again, we hold those dealing with these infections in our hearts.

The numbers

In mid month we had seven patients hospitalized with Covid-19, and five of them are in the Intensive Care Unit. Since we started releasing this information to the public regularly, we have had a lot of questions that show we need to put the numbers into context.

In order to best group and care for Covid-19 patients, we made the decision early on to treat all positive cases at the Bend hospital, and we are continuing to follow this practice. We have 24 ICU beds in Bend and six in Redmond for a total of 30 throughout the health system.

So, while having five Covid-19 patients in the ICU may seem like it's not too big of a deal, it is im-

portant to remember that many patients need ICU care for other reasons like heart attacks, strokes or car accidents.

In July 20 of our 30 ICU beds in the system are occupied.

When virus numbers climb, we do become concerned about the long-term impact on our patients, caregivers and community. This is where your actions continue to make a huge difference in our success. We appreciate all those of you who are doing your part to stay

home when possible, wear a mask when in public, wash your hands frequently and physically distance from those not in your immediate households.

Just like you, we at St. Charles are learning how to live in this next phase of our reality. Thank you for your ongoing support throughout this very difficult journey. Sincerely,

Joe Sluka, St. Charles president and chief executive officer.

Latest IHS covid data

The Indian Health Service has updated its coronavirus data, showing results through late July 22. According to the data, across Indian country 28,987 tests have returned positive for Covid-19. That represents an increase of 1.2 percent from the 28,638 cases previously reported.

Altogether, 435,535 coronavirus tests have been administered through late July, the data shows. That marks an increase of 1.8 percent from the day prior.

The relatively low growth in positive cases and tests is unusual for a day-to-day comparison during the week. Typically, the rates only drop during weekends, so forthcoming data might reveal a trend.

Overall, nearly 6.7 percent of IHS coronavirus tests have returned positive, according to the data. But the rate is far higher in the Phoenix Area, where about 17 percent are positive.

Closely following is the Navajo Area, which serves the largest reservation in the United States. But even with about 16.5 percent tests returning positive, the rate has held steady in the last several days following a slow but noticeable decline from the region with the highest rate.

The Nashville Area, which covers a wide area of Indian Country, including the South and Northeastern parts of the U.S., also continues to show a high positive rate of 10.1 percent.

On the other end of the spectrum, aggressive efforts in the Alaska Area are turning up very few cases. Out of 83,143 tests administered in Alaska, only 0.47 percent have returned positive, the data shows.

The Alaska Area also outnumbers nearly every other area—including Navajo—in terms of tests administered. The Oklahoma City Area retains the top spot, but only by 299 tests.

The data, however, is incomplete. While 100 percent of facilities run directly by the IHS are reporting data, only 33 percent of tribally managed facilities and 44 percent of urban Indian organizations are doing the same, the agency has told Indianz.Com.

The agency also provided the latest service population: 2,562,290. Based on that figure, 17 percent of American Indians and Alaska Natives have been tested for the coronavirus since the IHS began reporting data in March.

The IHS user population, on the other hand, is a much smaller number. As of 2019, 1,662,834 American Indians and Alaska Natives have lived within a service delivery area and have received health care at an IHS or tribal facility during the previous three years.

Based on the user population, nearly 26.2 percent of Native Americans have been tested for the coronavirus since the IHS began reporting data in March.

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Make Readies: To inspect any

home that is to be rented and/or sold.

Thorough walk-through of entire unit (interior and exterior): Doors, windows, cabinets, pain, heating and cooling, plumbing, floors, foundation and coverings, appliances, roofs, landscape, etc.

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We have the tools, truck with current license, and liability insurance. Competitive in price evaluation.

Please call **Desi Wheeler** (tribal member) to enquire about all work needed. 541-419-7521. Or email:

Missiondw51@gmail.com

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