

# Latest plan for school reopening

Dear family members, students and staff of the Jefferson County School District 509-J,

I'm writing to provide an update on our plans to reopen schools on Tuesday, September 8, within the Comprehensive Distance Learning guidelines provided by the State of Oregon.

The state originally provided three models for districts to consider for reopening schools.

These models included the 'On-Site', 'Hybrid' and 'Comprehensive Distance Learning' options.

Our district began the planning process to offer both the on-site option, and a distance learning option for our families.

However, in August the Governor, Oregon Department of Education and Oregon Health Authority released health metrics limiting all schools within Jefferson County to the Comprehensive Distance Learning model until the level of positive Covid-19 test drops below the health metric guidelines.

At that time, we announced that we will be starting the first six weeks of school in the Distance

Learning Model.

This past spring, school staff and families were given little warning prior to the closing of schools.

This provided minimal opportunity for school employees and families to plan for technology needs, systems for communication, training and support, and other logistics needed to make learning in the virtual environment highly effective.

This summer, district employees have been researching, planning, and acquiring resources to ensure we are significantly more prepared to support our employees, students, and family members in the Comprehensive Distance Learning model.

In addition, we have expanded our district's Online Learning program to accommodate families who choose to opt into this model. In both options, students are expected to engage and log in on a daily basis for attendance and to make weekly progress based upon pacing guides for completion of courses.

Comprehensive Distance Learning and Online Learning Program options are described below:

## Comprehensive Distance Learning

Comprehensive distance learning—CDL—provides the opportunity for teachers, students, and classmates to remain connected and engaged with district content materials while working from a distance.

Teachers will use live engagement tools such as Google Meets (K-12), as well as video and audio recorded lessons, to provide direct, teacher-supervised instruction.

This will be a much more robust distance learning model than last spring and will be designed for the teacher and students to navigate back to on-site learning when health metrics allow us to return to traditional classroom teaching and learning.

This option is likely the best choice for families who plan to have their students return to in-person learning once metrics allow us to reopen our schools.

**Ken Parshall**, superintendent, school district 509-J. August 6, 2020.

# Removing invasive plant species from Lake Billy Chinook

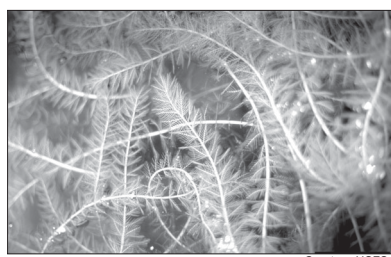
Eurasian watermilfoil is a kind of feathery, submerged aquatic plant that can quickly form thick mats in shallow areas of lakes and rivers.

It is native to Asia and Europe, but is now found in North America. It arrived here sometime between the 1880s and the 1940s.

The thick watermilfoil mats can interfere with swimming and entangle propellers, which hinders boating, fishing, and waterfowl hunting.

The plant is found in Lake Billy Chinook. The U.S. Forest Service in July began a removal project of the nuisance invasive plants.

Michael Crumrine, specialist with the Deschutes National Forestry, is heading up the re-



Eurasian watermilfoil

moval.

The Eurasian watermilfoil is also a problem invasive species because it can block water movement, and warm the water temperature.

The watermilfoil is widespread throughout Western Oregon and the Columbia River. In Central Oregon the plant is currently found only in Lake Billy Chinook.

The plant can travel to new locations, carried on the bottoms of boats, trailers and other water equipment. The best practice to slow the spread of the plant is to clean anything that goes in the water.

"Drain out bilges and things," Crumrine said. "Any sort of container that might keep a little bit of water in it, that might have some floating plants in it. Dry those out before you go anywhere else. Containment is really the goal."

Crews are out this week working on the cleanup. This will probably not be the end of the removal project, as the plant is persistent once in place.

[www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/profile/eurasian-watermilfoil](http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/profile/eurasian-watermilfoil)

## St. Charles adds curbside collection locations

### Available at Madras location

St. Charles Health Services this month added curbside Covid-19 specimen collection at six St. Charles clinics. The service is available to any person with a physician's lab order, and no appointment is needed.

The six curbside collection sites replace the drive-through testing. The sites include:

St. Charles Family Care in Madras at 480 NE A St. Open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

St. Charles Family Care in Redmond at 211 NW Larch Ave. Open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturdays 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

St. Charles Family Care in Bend at 61250 SE Coombs Place. Open seven days a week, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

St. Charles Family Care at 2600 NE Neff Road, Bend. Open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

St. Charles Family Care and Immediate Care in La Pine at 51781 Huntington Road. Open seven days a week, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

St. Charles Family Care in Prineville at 384 SE Combs Flat Road. Open Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and weekends 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Before going to any St. Charles

collection site, individuals are asked to blow their nose at home and wash their hands afterward, but to avoid using nasal spray or nasal saline 24 hours prior to collection.

St. Charles' Immediate Care clinics are also able to evaluate individuals and provide Covid-19 specimen collection without an appointment.

## Corrections facility closed

The Warm Springs Police Department reported that the Warm Springs Correctional Facility closed due to maintenance issues.

They have contracted with Northern Oregon Regional Correctional Facility—or NORCOR—located in The Dalles.

In addition from the Corrections facility: Remember that in the event a person is arrested on tribal criminal charges, it is up to the individual to provide his or her own transportation back home after being released from custody.

No timeline was given for reopening of the Warm Springs jail. In other public safety news:

### Cougar sighting

The Warm Springs Police Department alerted community members in the Kah-Nee-Ta, Wolf Point, Culpus Bridge, Charley Canyon, Schoolie and Simnasho areas that a large cougar was sighted recently by Kah-Nee-Ta security officers recently.

They remind you that if you encounter a cougar in the wild, or a residential area, you should:

- Stay calm and stand your ground. Maintain direct eye contact.

- Pick up any children, but do so without bending down or turning your back to the cat.

- Back away slowly. Do not run: Running can trigger a chase response.

- Raise your voice and speak firmly. If the cougar seems aggressive, raise your arms to make yourself look larger and clap your hands.

If in the very unusual event that a cougar attacks you, fight back with rocks, sticks, tools or any other item available. *Always be aware of your surroundings.*

## Grant for some elder home repair

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs is among 21 tribal communities across the country to receive a \$30,000 grant from the Wells Fargo Foundation, in partnership with the Native American Indian Housing Council.

The funds will go toward elder home repair projects.

With tribal nations across the country severely impacted by Covid-19, Wells Fargo and the Native American Indian Housing Council provided a total of \$620,000 in grants to tribal housing programs to fund housing repairs for 96 elder homeowners in 21 tribal communities.

The funding includes a total of \$180,000 in grants

funding home repair projects such as plumbing upgrades, accessibility improvements, and heating maintenance and installation.

At a time when tribes are forced to pare down services and devote their limited resources to pandemic response, these grants will help ensure the safety of senior homeowners and their families.

Many of the homes can currently be classified as substandard based on plumbing, heating or other repair needs.

The repairs made through the rehab program will ensure that families have safe places to reside as they are forced to stay home due to Covid-19 physical distancing requirement.

## The Dalles area fire contained

Work on the Fir Mountain Fire early this week increased the containment to more than 80 percent.

Close to 200 firefighters continue mop-up operations working from the perimeter into the interior of the fire. The fire was human caused.

Firefighters use a grid system to locate any areas of heat, then cool these spots with water and dirt as they pull the material apart.

Fire behavior on the Fir blaze this week was minimal this week.

Full containment is expected this Wednesday, August 12. The Central Oregon Fire Management Service Type 3 Team has transferred command back to Oregon Department of Forestry's The Dalles Unit.

A Type 4 organization will shadow the team today in preparation for the transition. Wasco County Sheriff's Department early this week reduced the Level 3 evacuation notice for 2900 Godbersen Road to a Level 1.

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You can complete your 2020 Census information from the KWSO website - [KWSO.org](http://KWSO.org)