

SLSD from A1

County-wide, the positivity rate must also be equal or below 5 percent and there must be 10 or fewer new cases per 100,000 people over a seven-day period.

There are exceptions for students under certain categories such as English-language learners, special education students and those without internet access. Under these exception metrics, there must be a 5 percent or less positivity rate and fewer than 30 new cases per 100,000.

For Lane County schools, the biggest issue is the state metric. Though the current county case rate is trending down with the positivity rate between 1 and 2, the state positivity rate remains too

high for any school to open for general on-site operations.

**'Return to Learning'**

During Monday's presentation, McCasline provided insight into what SLSD's "Return to Learning" blueprint would look like.

Ultimately, the district aims to employ a hybrid model, which means a combination of in-person and online work.

"So, we're going to start with everyone online. But as soon as we can and are able, we're going to bring students back to where they'll be in that hybrid model," said McCasline.

Beginning Sept. 1, teachers will engage in outreach by connecting with families in preparation for the upcoming online curriculum.

On Sept. 21, online classes begin.

When conditions are satisfactory, the hybrid model will see students return in cohorts (very small groups) with two days of in-school learning and three days online.

In preparing students for the online model, about 800 Chromebooks have been checked out to families with another 500 requests to be filled.

The district also has access to more than 100 hotspots, which will allow access for families with limited internet connectivity.

There is likely to be an online-only option for students as well. In a survey conducted by the district, 385 students out of about 1,500 respondents said that they are interested in the online-only

option. Families are still being contacted as part of the survey.

McCasline also spoke of the district's approach to hygiene.

"In all of our buildings, there will be daily cleaning and disinfection," said McCasline, but noted that some areas would be disinfected several times a day, especially between contact by different student cohorts.

On buses, disinfection is planned between routes while keeping the vehicles well-ventilated with open windows.

Offices and secretary desks will be equipped with plexiglass as a secondary protection measure.

Face coverings are to be required for all staff and students, ages 5 and over, and recommended for those ages 2 to 5. Medical-grade personal protection equipment will be provided as necessary and for students, multiple face coverings will be available.

"We've had some offers from the community members to make child and young adult masks that we could then wash nightly and have available for students as they get on the bus or come into the building," said McCasline. "That would allow us to clean them every night and have a fresh, sanitized mask for everyone, everyday, that aren't just the paper masks."

Training will be provided by Lane County Public Health to bus drivers and staff working at entrances of the buildings in order to identify potentially infected entrants.

Additionally, students will have assigned entrances to limit contact with others and an electronic tracing log system will keep track of those who enter the school.

In terms of personal hygiene, staff and students are encouraged to use hand sanitizer provided around campuses and six-foot social distancing will also be expected.

"We will be patient and understanding because it is totally against where they are in their growth and development," said McCasline.

He also noted there is a space limitation of one student per 35 square feet in any one area and capacity limits will be posted outside rooms.

To whatever extent possible, students will be restricted from prolonged contact with as few people as possible by staying in cohorts.

Visitors will also be heavily regulated and no volunteers are allowed.

In the case of a suspected infection or the presence of COVID-related symptoms, there is an isolation room and the school nurse will assess the person in question with medical-grade PPE to determine the next course of

action.

With a confirmed case, the district will follow the lead of LCPH and notify families, McCasline said.

Educators then dove into the nuts and bolts of the new education model.

Teacher Sandra Little presented a how-to booklet for Google Classroom, which will inform students and families on how to engage classwork, upload homework and contact teachers.

Next, Al Kennedy High School educator Aimee Cooper presented a tech guide for staff and administrators which aims to facilitate making distance learning productive and comprehensive.

Librarian Janet Rust then presented an online curriculum template, giving insight into how classes may look this fall.

"Basically, the classwork is what we're focusing on and how to present it in a way that's consistent throughout," she said, adding that it would be a notable improvement from the kind of confusion that occurred in the spring.

SLSD Special Education Director Chad Hamilton spoke to social/emotional needs.

"[They are] very difficult when you're distancing from one another, but it is definitely very high on our teachers' minds as a very big need and as a result we've prioritized it," he said. "In order to meet social/emotional needs, we need to see students and be with students."

Hamilton pointed out that bringing English-language learners, special education students and kindergartners back to school as soon as metrics allow was an important step.

He also presented plans for educating students on topics such as empathy instruction.

More details of the plans are to be revealed to families in the days and weeks to follow.

"We're going to expect feedback and we're going to build in some opportunities for feedback," said McCasline.

**CAR CARE**

**Bed Liners & More Repair**

**LINE-X** PROTECTIVE COATINGS  
**TRUCK GEAR** BY LINE-X

Bedliners • Truck Accessories  
**541-463-7939**

LINE-X OF LANE COUNTY, INC.  
 745 RIVER AVE., UNIT E., EUGENE, OR 97404 • TRUCKGEAR.COM

**No Monkey Business!**  
*Automotive Specialties*  
**Transmission Service & Repair**  
 Automotive Repairs • Maintenance Services  
**942-8022 • 424 Hwy. 99 S.**

**Dealers**

**Brad's Chevy**  
 COTTAGE GROVE CHEVROLET, INC.  
**GMC • Chevrolet • Chevy Trucks**  
**SALES & SERVICES**  
 2775 Row River Rd 942-4415

**Tires**

Gill's **point S**  
 TIRE & AUTO SERVICE  
 Mon-Fri: 8am-6pm  
 Sat: 8am-2pm | Sun: Closed  
**302 Hwy 99 S. • 946-3943**

**Repair**

**MARVIN SMITH**  
**AUTO REPAIR INC.**  
 • Computerized Diagnostics • Fuel injected Vehicles  
 • Tune-Ups • Suspension • Brakes • Air Conditioning  
**518 Hwy. 99 S. • 942-7112**

**Tires LES SCHWAB**  
**109 Hwy. 99 S., Cottage Grove**  
**942-4466**

Imagine The Difference You Can Make

**DONATE YOUR CAR**  
**1-844-533-9173**

FREE TOWING  
 TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Help Prevent Blindness  
 Get A Vision Screening Annually

**Heritage for the Blind**

Ask About A FREE 3 Day Vacation Voucher To Over 20 Destinations!!!

**LeafFilter** GUTTER PROTECTION

NO MORE GUTTER CLEANING, OR YOUR MONEY BACK GUARANTEED!

CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE **1-855-536-8838**

**15% OFF** YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE AND! **10% OFF** SENIOR & MILITARY DISCOUNTS + **5% OFF** TO THE FIRST 50 CALLERS!

Promo Number: 285 Mon-Thurs: 8am-11pm, Fri-Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: 2pm-8pm EST

\*For those who qualify. One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. \*\* Offer valid at estimate only. CSL# 1035795 DPL# 1078368-0501. License# 7656 License# 92145 License# 41354 License# 99338 License# 128344 License# 2102094 License# 603 233 977 License# 2102212986 License# 2106212946 License# 2705132153A License# LEAF7N823Z License# WY056912 License# WC-29998-H17 Nissan HC License# H01057000 Registration# 176447 Registration# HC-0649905 Registration# C127229 Registration# C127230 Registration# 366920918 Registration# PC4475 Registration# 1R731804 Registration# 13VH9953900 Registration# P4069383 Suffolk HC License# 52229-H

We Appreciate Our Readers & We Need Your Support!



All of our coronavirus coverage is accessible online free of charge.

While the need for local news has never been greater, community newspapers across the country are being forced to shut down, as ad revenues decline and operating funds run thin. In order to continue providing essential, fact-based, locally focused content to our community, we need your assistance. If you are able, we ask that you consider subscribing or making a tax-deductible donation to help keep your local newspaper running. We understand that these are difficult times for everyone, and every little bit helps. We are all in this together, and we thank you for your support!

We believe it is our duty as a local newspaper to make these critical updates and resources available to everyone in our community. We are proud of this role, and we appreciate your trust in us!

**Local News – and Your Support – Matter Now More Than Ever...**

Please Subscribe or Donate Today!  
 Call 541.942.3325 or go to [cgsentinel.com](http://cgsentinel.com) for details.



Cottage Grove **Sentinel**

In Print & Online  
**541.942.3325**  
[www.cgsentinel.com](http://www.cgsentinel.com)