

Metrics from A1

an update on Friday to its Ready Schools, Safe Learners guidance, which outlines strict health and safety protocols aimed at lowering the risk of COVID-19 infection among students, parents, educators and support staff.

"Doctors tell me that 'zero risk' is not the way forward. It can't be," Brown said. "Coronavirus is here

but we can be thoughtful and smart about minimizing risks so we can live our lives as safely as possible."

Brown added that it's also clear that the state must prioritize getting students back into the classroom for in-person instruction in a way that minimizes risk to the greatest extent possible.

"While we are making adjustments to the metrics based on our best judgment of the science, they are not radical shifts. Not

every school district across the state will suddenly be able to meet these metrics and reopen right away," said Brown. "In fact, the vast majority of our students will not be able to return to class. However, close to 130,000 students will potentially be able to return to in-person instruction with these metrics, and that's a really good thing."

A key lesson from reviewing national school data, according to ODE Director Colt Gill, is that Oregon school districts can help protect the health and well-being of both students and staff during in-person instruction when community spread is sufficiently low — and exercised in conjunction with strictly adhering to health and safety protocols already in place.

"Guided by data, these new metrics offer an intentional and measured approach to returning to in-person instruction

while recognizing the importance of meeting our kids' academic needs — and allow for in-person instruction in places of our state where the risk of COVID-19 is lower," said Gill, who added that the metrics also set a "North Star" for the rest of the state to work toward.

"We all know that in-person instruction provides our children and families with more than access to an equitable education. Schools are a center of services to students and families, offering nutritious meals, access to social-emotional and mental health supports, as well as physical health services," Gill added.

Key changes to the metrics include:

- A clear set of reachable targets for communities to strive for, with a North Star of returning Oregon students to in-person instruction.
- Acknowledgement that Oregon's Ready Schools,

Safe Learners guidance's strong public health protocols in structured settings like schools can greatly reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19.

- Additional time for schools to transition between in-person and distance learning models.
- Increased access to in-person instruction at the elementary level.
- A two-week "Look Back" at the metrics data rather than one week at a time over a three-week period.
- Removal of state positivity rate in favor of county positivity rates in determining a school's ability to transition back to in-person learning.

"As we learn more about the progression of COVID-19 in Oregon, the effectiveness of future vaccines and other mitigation efforts, and gain more information about the transmission of COVID-19 in structured settings like schools, ODE and OHA are committed to reviewing the metrics again in the coming weeks," said Gill.

The new metrics took effect immediately and, based on this week's data

points, could allow nearly 130,000 students to return to some in-person instruction. The ODE is recommending that schools consider a methodical and cautious approach, returning only a portion of the school population first, then adding more students on-site over time.

This would allow schools to build new safety routines, stabilize cohorts and avoid sudden, disruptive transitions back to Comprehensive Distance Learning due to quarantine or isolation.

Prior to last Friday's updated state metrics, schools within the South Lane School District (SLSD) had been providing Comprehensive Distance Learning (CDL) to all students, pre-kindergarten through 12th grade, and were in the preliminary stages of planning limited in-person instruction at some point.

Though these new metrics provide a shift towards getting students back into the classroom, based on the current metrics and Monday's latest county case rate (133 per 100K

See **SCHOOL 9A**

BATH FITTER®

THE BATH YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED
Installed in as little as one day

SAVE UP TO \$450*
on a complete Bath Fitter system

855-962-4793

* Visit our website for conditions and offer details.

DIRECTV | **SUNDAY TICKET**

DON'T JUST KINDA TV. DIRECTV.

EVERY LIVE GAME EVERY SUNDAY
Only on DIRECTV

Get the 2020 NFL SUNDAY TICKET season included at no extra cost.

Don't settle for cable. Call now!

AT&T Preferred Dealer

1-888-524-0639

HOME PRIDE Painting and Repair LLC

Over 30 years of experience

Schedule Now For Spring Exterior Repairs

Call us for a Free Quote!

"We do Christmas Lights, home repairs and decks!"

\$50-\$200 Off Interior Painting Scheduled by Dec. 11, 2020

Serving Lane & North Douglas Counties

541-735-0089
ccb# 217560

6-day weather forecast

FRIDAY 48° 37° Showers	SATURDAY 48° 37° Showers
SUNDAY 46° 27° Partly Sunny	MONDAY 48° 36° Partly Sunny
TUESDAY 48° 37° Showers	WEDNESDAY 50° 34° Showers

Save your money by bundling home & auto.

(541) 942-0555

PayneWest INSURANCE

EVERYONE DESERVES A GREAT SMILE!

CALL TODAY TO SCHEDULE YOUR INITIAL CONSULTATION • 541.686.1732

EUCENE 622 E. 22nd Ave Suite C 541.686.1732	CRESWELL 195 Melton Rd. 541.686.1732
--	---

THORNTON Orthodontics

or visit us at www.thornton-ortho.com

Free Rein ON MAIN
COTTAGE GROVE

trending women's apparel sizes small-3xl

16TH & MAIN ST
WWW.FREEREINONMAIN.COM

GROVE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

\$100 OFF IN STOCK LIFT CHAIRS & POWERED MOBILITY DEVICES
(Offer Valid Through December 31st 2020)

148 Gateway Blvd (Bi Mart Plaza)
Cottage Grove, OR 97424
541-225-5443

grovemedical@outlook.com
Join us on Facebook

Swap & Shop

Buy - Sell - Trade

10:05 - 11am
Monday - Friday

3 Items - \$500 limit

This is truly the place to find that hard to find item or turn your unwanted possessions in to other people's treasure.

717 Main Street
Cottage Grove, OR 97424
Lobby Phone: 541.942.2468
Studio Line: 541.942.5548
Online requests: request@knnnd.com

Anytime. Anywhere. Any day...

Matt Bjornn, Agent
Bus: 541-942-2623
www.bjornninsurance.com

That's when you can count on State Farm®.

I know life doesn't come with a schedule. That's why at State Farm you can always count on me for whatever you need - 24/7, 365. **GET TO A BETTER STATE™.** CALL ME TODAY.

State Farm™

1101198.1 State Farm, Home Office, Bloomington, IL

PC GARAGE

SALES, SERVICE & REPAIRS

711 E. Main Street | Cottage Grove
541-649-1073 | www.pcgargaregon.com

Complete tech, networking, security and IT solutions for your home or business.

CRAFT fair

ELKS #1904 CRAFT FAIR & FLEA MARKET

November 7th - 9am-4pm
November 8th - 12pm-4pm

Cottage Grove Elks Lodge, 775 N. River Road
Handmade Items, Bake Sale, Ceramics, Lighted Bottles, and lots of Jewelry

Lunch Will Be Available Saturday 11am-1pm

Everything for Your Eyes Only

Comprehensive family, medical eyecare and optical services
We provide exams for Cataracts, Glaucoma, Diabetic and Lasik
Serving Cottage Grove since 2006

Book an appointment today!
Medical, vision and flexible spending plans welcome.

Mon-Thurs 9M-5PM
FRI 9AM-4PM
257 N.8th St 541-942-5000
www.PCVI.com

Pacific ClearVision INSTITUTE