

# State requires all K-12 students to wear face masks in class this fall

By Jackson Hogan  
The (Bend) Bulletin

All K-12 students in Oregon will be required to wear face coverings if they return to classrooms this fall, according to a new state mandate. All school staff in K-12 schools will also be required to wear face coverings such as masks or shields.

This decision, announced Wednesday by the Oregon Department of Education, reverses the state’s previous guidelines from June, which only recommended that older students wear face coverings.

The state will distribute 5 million face coverings — donated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency — to school districts throughout Oregon to help schools meet this new requirement, according to a state press release.

Charan Cline, superintendent of Redmond School District, said he believes the face covering mandate is the right call based on current medical evidence. He also said there will be alternate options for families who don’t wish to have their children wear face masks.

“I think it’s very doable,” Cline said of the mandate. “Not every family will agree with this, and I think if families don’t agree, we’re creating a very good K-12 distance learning model.”

Gov. Kate Brown, in a press conference Wednesday morning, said that face coverings will be required for all Oregon children ages 5 and older in public. She thanked parents, guardians and child care providers in advance for helping children understand the

importance of wearing a mask.

“Obviously, I cannot be everywhere all at once,” Brown said at the press conference. “I am incredibly grateful that parents are willing to step up and help us with this really important task.”

Dean Sidelinger, the state’s chief health officer, added that although getting students back into classrooms this fall is a priority, it is key to do so with precautions.

“We know that getting kids in front of a trained teacher to receive quality education can really make an impact on those children,” he said at the press conference. “But we need to do it safely.”

The state will release another update to its fall school plan on Aug. 11.

# Brown reduces the limit on attendance at indoor events

By Gary A. Wamer  
For the Oregon Capital Bureau

Gov. Kate Brown on Wednesday ordered bars to close earlier, lowered the age for mask requirements, further limited crowd sizes and said she may impose travel restrictions.

Brown spoke at a Wednesday morning teleconference to lay out new rules, which take effect on Friday, that she said are required because the spread of COVID-19 in the state remains too rapid to contain. State officials said the number of cases of new infections was up 26 percent from the week before.

“Oregon, we ventured out onto the ice together and that ice has begun to crack. Before we fall through the ice, we need to take steps to protect ourselves and our community,” Brown said.

### Effective this Friday, July 24:

- Anyone 5 and older must wear a mask in public indoor spaces and outdoors where social distancing is not possible. Masks are recommended but not required for those between 2 and 5.
- The maximum number of people allowed inside indoor restaurants, bars, churches, theaters and other venues is reduced from 250 to 100.



Oregon Gov. Kate Brown.

Jaime Valdez / Pamplin Media Group

- Restaurants and bars in Phase 2 counties — which includes most of the state, including Baker County — must close at 10 p.m., two hours earlier than the current midnight.
- Gyms must require face masks even while customers exercise.

In one loosening of restrictions, Brown announced that outdoor visits to people in long-term care facilities will be allowed as long as there are no virus cases at the facility (see related story on Page 1A).

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## MANAGER

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Councilors, meeting in a work session, talked about the search for a manager to replace Fred Warner Jr., who will retire at the end of the year.

Councilor Randy Schiewe was absent.

Robin Nudd, the city’s human resources director, reviewed some of the standards a previous Council used before hiring Warner in June 2016.

The current minimum requirements are a bachelor’s degree in business or public administration, or a combination of education and experience that demonstrates the candidate’s ability to do the job.

Councilor Doni Bruland said she wants the Council to look for candidates with experience in city management.

Nudd said the proposed salary range, of \$98,000 to \$115,000 annually, is the same as when Warner was hired.

Warner’s salary for the fiscal year that started July 1 is \$104,000.

“I think we’re well within reason,” Nudd said of the proposed salary range.

But Bruland said she’s concerned the range is too high, saying it’s about 20% more than the salary for Baker County Commission Chairman Bill Harvey.

Harvey, the only full-time county commissioner, has a salary for the current fiscal year of \$82,330.

“That’s a big difference,” Bruland said.

Councilor Jason Spriet said the city manager job requires a certain level of expertise, and “if you don’t pay for it, you don’t get it.”

Mayor Loran Joseph noted that Burns, which is also seeking to hire a city manager, is offering a salary range of \$60,000 to \$75,000 but has not been able to fill the position for more than a year.

Joseph suggested advertising a range of \$85,000 to \$115,000 for the Baker City manager job.

Nudd said the city’s highest-paid department head is the police chief at \$82,284.

Warner questioned setting the lowest salary for the city manager at \$85,000.

“I think the problem with starting at \$85,000 is I can guarantee you that 95% of the councils never want to give the city manager a pay raise and it’s never a good time to do it,” Warner said. “In my contract, when I negotiated it, I had 2% in there and that’s probably the only reason I have a pay raise.”

Bruland suggested the city set the base salary on the manager’s qualifications. She doesn’t think the city can afford \$110,000 or \$115,000 annually.

As for soliciting candidates, councilors discussed advertising the job in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and possibly Northern California. Potential advertisement sites include the League of Oregon Cities (LOC) and the International City Management Association (ICMA) Job Center, which advertises nationally.

Councilor Lynette Perry said she wants the city to make sure that candidates who live in larger cities understand in advance the difference in living in a smaller city.

“It isn’t just them you’re dealing with, it’s their wife and kids and a lot of them come from bigger areas, they think they have the dream

of settling in a small town,” Perry said. “They get here and they just can’t cope with life in a slower pace rural area. So we really need to let them know that the culture is different here than it is in the city.”

Nudd said advertisements will begin the second week of August.

Councilors discussed hiring an interim manager if it looks as though they won’t be able to hire someone before the holiday season.

Warner offered to stay on beyond the turn of the year if necessary.

Councilors also plan to appoint three of their members to a selection committee to work with Nudd to review applications and schedule interviews.

Councilors plan to have newly elected councilors meet with candidates following the Nov. 3 election. Six of the seven seats on the Council are up for election.

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