



COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions

What happens if the novel coronavirus starts spreading in our area?

We are already working with public health officials to determine the best steps for limiting the spread of the virus. If school closures become necessary, we will announce those decisions through Flash Alert, on our homepage and through social media.

If our district closes offices and/or programs, how long will they be closed?

The novel coronavirus has only been spreading between humans since December of 2019. There is still much unknown about the virus and how it behaves. If closures become necessary for the safety of students and staff, we will work with public health officials to determine the best length for closures. The situation is evolving daily, so we will continue to provide information as it becomes available.

My child is sick. What should I do?

As with the common cold or influenza, please keep your child home from school if they are sick. The best way to prevent spreading infection to others is to stay home.

OHA continues to recommend all people in Oregon take everyday precautions to prevent the spread of many respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19 and influenza:

- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue and then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces that are often touched.
- Take care of your health overall. Staying current on your vaccinations, including flu vaccine, eating well and exercising all help your body stay resilient.
- Consult CDC's travel website for any travel advisories and steps to protect yourself if you plan to travel outside of the United States.

What sort of prevention measures is your staff taking?

Our staff is regularly sanitizing surfaces, particularly those that frequently come into contact with our staff, children and students.

All staff are advised to practice the prevention measures recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Does my child need to wear a mask to school?

Via the World Health Organization: People with no respiratory symptoms, such as cough, do not need to wear a medical mask. The World Health Organization recommends the use of masks for people who have symptoms of COVID-19 and for those caring for individuals who have symptoms, such as cough and fever. The use of masks is crucial for health workers and people who are taking care of someone (at home or in a healthcare facility).

WHO advises rational use of medical masks to avoid unnecessary wastage of precious resources and mis-use of masks ([see Advice on the use of masks](#)). Use a mask only if you have respiratory symptoms (coughing or sneezing), have suspected COVID-19 infection with mild symptoms, or are caring for someone with suspected COVID-19 infection. A suspected COVID-19 infection is linked to travel in areas where cases have been reported, or close contact with someone who has travelled in these areas and has become ill.

The most effective ways to protect yourself and others against COVID-19 are to frequently clean your hands, cover your cough with the bend of elbow or tissue and maintain a distance of at least 1 meter (3 feet) from people who are coughing or sneezing. For more information, [see basic protective measures against the new coronavirus >>](#)