



December 1, 2020

Update for RPA Staff, Students, and Families

Subject: RPA COVID-19 Metrics Update

Dear RPA Staff, Students, and Families,

We are reaching out today to let you know that the [updated COVID metrics](#) established for Deschutes County by the Governor of Oregon have not been met. We regularly review the COVID-19 case counts in Deschutes County and based upon the rising number of COVID-19 cases in Deschutes County, we plan to remain in Comprehensive Distance Learning (CDL) through the end of Semester One, which concludes on December 18. With only three weeks remaining, we believe this is the safest and least disruptive way to finish out the semester.

For students to return to school and for RPA to enter into the [RPA Hybrid Model](#) of instruction, the **Deschutes County case counts must fall below 50 cases per 100,000 residents during a two-week look back period, and the test positivity rate must be below 5.0% during that same time period. The last time Deschutes County was below 50 cases per 100,000 for a two-week look back period was on September 14. To help you better understand our current numbers, the Oregon Health Authority has recently reported a significant increase in our [COVID metrics](#) for **the weeks of November 15th through November 28th, reporting 374.1 cases per 100,000 residents and a 7.1% test positivity rate.****

When RPA receives a two-week look back report indicating that cases in Deschutes County are below 50 cases per 100,000 residents with a test positivity rate below 5%, RPA will announce plans for students to have the option to return to school for in-person learning. Until then, we will continue in our CDL Model. When the opportunity presents itself to allow students to return to school, RPA plans to do so by offering three different learning models that will immerse all of our students in rich personalized educational experiences. These learning models include: [RPA Online Powered by Edgenuity](#), [RPA @ Home](#), and the [RPA Hybrid Model](#). We are currently making plans for Semester Two and will provide you with an update with more specifics by December 15.

Although this announcement is not what any of us wanted to hear, I hope that it can provide clarity and a plan for students, parents, and staff moving forward. We continue to appreciate your support, patience, and understanding as we navigate this challenging time together. Our commitment remains on providing a proficiency based education in a personalized learning environment that is safe, positive, and enriching. Please regularly check your email and RPA's website for the most up-to-date information.

Thank you,

Jon Bullock
Executive Director