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## **Frequently Asked Questions for Boarding Families**

We are committed to bringing boarding students to campus this fall. While there remains uncertainty about next year, we will continue to follow both Oregon and Federal safety guidelines and preventative measures in order to plan for a robust and engaging Residential Life Program for 2020-2021. We appreciate your communications and support, and offer the following list of Frequently Asked Questions as a first step in planning for next year with our families. These will be updated throughout the summer. If you have additional questions, please share them with Director of Residential Life/Assistant Head of Upper School for Community Sarah Grenert-Funk ([grenertfunks@oes.edu](mailto:grenertfunks@oes.edu)) and we will add them to this document for the benefit of all families and students.

### **Will the dorm be open for the 2020-2021 year?**

We plan for the dormitory and Residential Life Program to be open for the entirety of the 2020-2021 academic year even if the Upper School is in a period of remote learning. Any decision to **not** open in the fall or to institute closures during the year will be due to local and federal health and department of education requirements. The School is currently working on our academic plan, which will likely involve a hybrid approach with in-person classes and remote learning.

### **Will the school require a quarantine?**

It is highly likely that the School will require a two-week quarantine protocol. We are still determining details, but we will likely use a combination of on-campus quarantine, utilizing local guardians when possible, and reserving rooms in a local hotel. This process is still in the design phase as we continue to determine our quarantine protocols and best practices based on information from The Association of Boarding Schools (TABS) and the Oregon Health Authority. We are also planning to test boarding students for COVID-19--even if they are asymptomatic--upon their arrival in the Portland area and again 7-14 days later. We may also ask families who are able to get a COVID-19 test within 5 days of arriving on campus to do so and to share results with our nurse. More information about quarantine and testing is forthcoming.

### **When is move-in for new students and prefects?**

Depending on what we decide for quarantine, move-in for on-campus quarantine would likely be in two cohorts: one moving in on Sunday, August 23rd and the other on Monday, August 24.

### **When is move-in for off-campus quarantine, if that is an option?**

If we have that option, move-in for returners in off-campus quarantine would likely be September 5th. Again, we have not determined if we will use an off campus quarantine yet.

### **When will Upper School school programming begin for day and dorm students?**

Upper School orientation for new students will be Tuesday, September 8th and Upper School programming for all students will begin on Wednesday, September 9.

### **Should I think about packing differently this year?**

In order to maintain clean and hygienic rooms, students should limit their items to necessary belongings only (clothes, toiletries, school supplies, bedding, and a few special personal items.) Any additional items, especially those used for decoration, can be left at home or stored in on-campus storage until further notice. We will have room checks throughout the week to ensure the highest standards of cleanliness.

### **Will there be online learning if a student cannot arrive on campus or can only arrive late? How will grades be calculated? Will their transcript be accepted by colleges?**

Faculty are already hard at work developing classes that have the flexibility to be taught on campus or online. Therefore, students who are unable to arrive to campus in time for the start of classes will be able to continue their learning in an online environment until they arrive. The dorm faculty and academic resource coordinators will support students in learning remotely.

Information about grading next year under remote learning or a hybrid model will likely be announced later in the summer. At this time, we anticipate all core courses receiving a traditional letter grade; arts and physical education classes are under review. Rest assured that we have our students' best interests at heart when making these types of decisions and will never create a punitive grading model.

All academic work counts equally towards our graduation and diploma requirements. Our college office and senior administrators remain in regular contact with colleges and universities throughout the country; we have been assured that all OES course credits and grades will be accepted by colleges and universities.

### **How will the dorm be set up to ensure the safety of students?**

The only way we will be 100% safe is if the school remains closed. Therefore, we cannot guarantee a student will not contract COVID-19 or any other illness while traveling to OES or while in our care. However, we will follow all best practices, government-mandated guidelines, and department of health recommendations in order to lessen the risks associated with COVID-19 as much as possible. As is consistent with state and federal guidance and the decisions of hundreds of boarding schools, colleges, and universities, our students will continue to live in doubles and have a roommate. However, we will create new routines and protocols to limit exposure and transmission in dormitory bedrooms, bathrooms, and social and dining spaces. We will also follow our comprehensive communicable disease protocols and will isolate any student who is sick, or who exhibits any signs of COVID-19, from the broader dorm population. A more detailed description of these measures will be forthcoming.

### **Will the School require students to wear masks in the dorms and in classrooms if classes resume?**

Yes, the dorms will require masks in public spaces during quarantine, on store trips, and during other indoor off-campus activities. If and when classes resume in person, masks will be required for all students and adults in the OES community and will be worn in classrooms, in any school buildings, and outside when 6ft physical distancing cannot be maintained.

### **Does United Health Insurance cover COVID-19 testing and treatment?**

The safety and well-being of your student is of primary importance to us. In that spirit, below please find valuable information concerning the student health insurance plan coverage as it relates to COVID-19. Please note this is not intended to be a comprehensive summary of the benefits/exclusions in the plan. Please refer to the plan summary and brochure/certificate of coverage for additional details.

### **Is COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) covered?**

#### **Treatment**

- Yes. This is covered under the plan and treated as "any other sickness" – no separate limits, co-pays, etc. This will help ensure that your student has access to care and the insurance will help offset any expenses incurred.

## **Covid-19 Testing**

- Symptomatic – Yes. If your student is displaying symptoms, the testing will be covered. The testing needs to be ordered by a physician (or appropriately licensed healthcare professional) and administered by a qualified provider.
- Asymptomatic/Screening – A specific determination is still under review. At this point, we need to plan with you to cover these costs outside of the student insurance policy.

## **Where is my student covered?**

- Your student does not need to be at school to be covered – Your student's coverage is in force and covered expenses are eligible for reimbursement anywhere in the world.
  - o This includes the student's home country (thru 12/31/20)

As you know, the situation is constantly evolving. Below please find links provided by United Healthcare Student Resources (guidelines, FAQ's, etc.) These links are updated on a frequent basis in order to address changing dynamics and questions as they arise.

<https://www.uhcsr.com/news-main> - "Welcome page"

<https://www.uhcprovider.com/en/resource-library/news/Novel-Coronavirus-COVID-19.html> – detailed information (for providers) concerning testing, treatment, coding and reimbursement.

## **Will the dormitories stay open for breaks?**

At this point, we are considering many options for our calendar, including an extended winter break. However, if we retain the usual calendar, the dorms will remain open over Thanksgiving Break, and students who wish to stay in the dorms will have the option to do so. There will likely be additional costs associated with this stay to cover costs of meals and staffing. The School will communicate to families whether the dormitories will remain open for future breaks (Winter Break, Spring Break) as decisions are made. All residential students will be tested for COVID-19 upon return to school after any extended break.

## **What about long breaks, such as Winter Break and Spring Break? Should International students return to their home countries or stay in the United States?**

At this time, it is the recommendation of the School that international students not return to their home countries for breaks for the 2020-2021 school year. Doing so could put the student at greater health risks, dependent upon quarantine protocols and testing availability, or the student may run into travel issues on account of travel bans. The School will update recommendations as information becomes available.

## **What is the School considering should there be a case of COVID-19 in the Residential Life Program?**

In the event of a verified COVID-19 case, Oregon and CDC guidelines will require that the School take a specific period of time to clean and disinfect areas where that student was present. The School will create a separate, designated area to place students who show symptoms of COVID-19 or test positive until they are cleared by our medical staff. If a student or faculty member shows symptoms, our partnership with the Oregon Health and Sciences University healthcare system, as well as our licensure from the Oregon Department of Human Services, allows us to have access to COVID-19 testing for the entire residential life population, and those results will be returned in most cases within 48-72 hours. The School is planning to perform those tests on site by a medical professional. Students who come into contact with a student or anyone who tests positive will need to quarantine for a period of time determined by health authorities and our medical staff.

### **What health and medical services will be available to students this year?**

We have a full-time school nurse (Morgan McFadyen) whose office is located in the dorm building. In addition, and as has been the case in previous years, we will continue our relationship with our OHSU medical doctors and nurses at a nearby clinic. These medical professionals are also available and on-call 24-hours a day. More information about our healthcare support for next year is forthcoming.

### **Are there any new policies for the Residential Life Program as a result of COVID-19?**

Yes, there will be several new policies and procedures this year. We are working on the details of those now. In the meantime, one major change is that all OES residential life students whose parents live outside of the United States will be required to name and have a designated person or family that represents them who lives in the United States. We prefer to have the adult representative live in Oregon or the western region of the United States within a 3-5 hour driving radius of the OES campus. The adult representative must assume responsibility for the student whenever the student cannot stay in the dorms and cannot get home. This may be during breaks, during medical or other emergencies, during pandemics or natural disasters, or if the student is facing disciplinary action and needs to be away from the dorm for a period of time. The adult representative will not be expected to assume financial responsibility for the student's tuition or other school charges. The purpose of this new policy is to ensure the continuity of the academic year for all students and to provide the necessary flexibility in the event that students need to vacate campus and cannot get home. If you do not have a local guardian, please contact Sarah Grenert-Funk ([grenertfunks@oes.edu](mailto:grenertfunks@oes.edu)) as soon as possible to discuss options.

### **Can my child stay with another family this year?**

To ensure each child's safety, the School has a specific and extensive legal process for Residential Life students who wish to live off-campus for the year. Students must be in residence with direct family members and/or legal guardians who can make medical decisions on their behalf. This legal process includes transferring official guardianship of your child to another person and is a permanent residence for your child for the year. Families wishing to learn more about this option should reach out to Sarah Grenert-Funk ([grenertfunks@oes.edu](mailto:grenertfunks@oes.edu)) who will direct your questions to the appropriate administrator at OES.

### **How did OES determine the refund amount for the 2019-20 school year?**

Almost all of the school's revenue comes from tuition dollars, and more than 70% of the school's expenses are to provide salaries and benefits to the employees that support the school's students.

The discretionary facility closure credits were entirely derived from savings due to the campus being closed by the governor's order. When the campus was closed, the decision was made to continue supporting all employees through the 19-20 academic year. As such, savings were realized in the "Program" and "Physical Plant" sections of the school's budget. In the Program category, savings were realized by not having co-curricular activities such as athletics and performing arts, not having trips, not purchasing food (but still paying our food service workers), and not purchasing supplies for the classroom. Savings in the Physical Plant category were generated by not purchasing fuel for vehicles, a reduction in utility bills, and other marginal savings.

All those savings were combined, and shared with families via the credit. As you can see, the percentage credited to boarding families was slightly higher than the percentage credited to day students.

Please feel free to send questions or comments to Gretchen Reed, CFO ([reedg@oes.edu](mailto:reedg@oes.edu)).

	<b>Tuition</b>	<b>Credit</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>PK</b>	\$ 22,000	\$ 1,100	5.0%
<b>K</b>	\$ 28,900	\$ 1,100	3.8%
<b>Lower School</b>	\$ 29,600	\$ 1,100	3.7%
<b>Middle School</b>	\$ 34,100	\$ 1,100	3.2%
<b>Upper School</b>	\$ 35,000	\$ 1,100	3.1%
<b>Boarding</b>	\$ 65,100	\$ 3,300	5.1%

**Will OES refund residential life fees if travel bans or other unforeseen circumstances associated with COVID-19 prevent a student from coming to campus?**

If a student cannot get to campus and is engaged in online learning, the School will review tuition savings and may apply a discretionary credit. This would not apply if the School adopts a staggered arrival system for the first few weeks but would apply to students who cannot come to campus for an extended time due to travel restrictions and/or visa issues.

**Will OES refund residential life fees if the dorm is closed for part of the year?**

Yes, if the School cannot open the dormitories on time as planned, or is forced to close the dormitories for any portion of the year, the School will review tuition savings and may apply a discretionary credit.

**Can I defer the admission of my child and enroll in January 2021?**

No. Students who anticipate that they will be unable to arrive on campus no sooner than January 2021 should engage in their classes online until they are able to join us on campus.

**Can I defer enrollment of my child and enroll in August 2021?**

We will not defer enrollment. Students who choose not to continue enrollment may reapply for the 2021-22 school year.

**If a student is diagnosed with COVID-19 at school will the dorms be closed?**

We are designating five isolation rooms in the dorms with a designated bathroom and shower room. If a boarding student is diagnosed with COVID-19 they will be isolated in one of these rooms. Their roommate and other students in their cohort group(s) will also be quarantined and tested. More information about the specifics of this process will be provided later in the summer.

**Have you considered keeping the dorms closed and doing remote learning for boarding students until the virus is more under control?**

We are committed to opening the dorms in the fall. However, we will consider all alternatives based on evolving local and federal guidelines and how the virus is being contained in Oregon. As a result, we will be prepared for multiple contingencies should state or federal guidance change or local or regional conditions become such that we must implement another approach.

**What if a student does not feel safe returning to campus and prefers to continue remote learning from home?**

The School is currently considering options for students who cannot return to campus. If you know of any reason why you would not be able to return for an early quarantine (mid-August) or for the start of school (early September), please contact Sarah Grenert-Funk ([grenertfunks@oes.edu](mailto:grenertfunks@oes.edu)) as soon as possible.