

Rising COVID-19 Transmission Rates

Due to rising trends of COVID-19 cases in Pierce County, the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department has advised several of our neighboring school districts to pause bringing back additional students for in-person learning until we see a trending decline in case numbers.

The Health Department has confirmed that students designated as high need individuals can continue to have in-person instruction in small groups. As such, in-person instruction for our most vulnerable students will continue. This new news about a return to in-person instruction for elementary students does not impact self-contained special education students, some of our other students with special needs, and students furthest from educational justice.

We will continue our work and planning that we have begun that currently targets a November 2nd return for students in preschool through fifth grade. It is difficult to say today whether we can stick with that November date, but for the time being we will wait and see what happens with transmission rates in Pierce County. We know at some point we will be back to in-person learning in a hybrid model so it is important to put in the hours now and finalize our plans.

If you haven't already, please complete the survey in Skyward sent out last Friday to help us plan for an eventual return to in-person learning in a hybrid learning model. Please access the survey in [Skyward Family Access](#). Remember, you need to complete it for each of your students. After logging in you will see a tab on the left labeled Online Forms. After clicking on it, you will see the "20-21 Return to Class AM/PM" Parent Survey. From there, click on the survey to complete it. The survey has been updated to reflect the original timeframe commitment of the end of the 2nd trimester (March 23rd) for elementary students and the end of the first semester (February 1st) for middle school families. You can log back in and edit your responses if you've already submitted your answers and need to change something.

If you have questions or would like more information about our plans for hybrid learning visit our Fall Reopening Page on the district website

at https://www.dieringer.wednet.edu/community/dieringer_fall_school_reopening. You can also learn about our plans by watching the recording of Monday's board meeting. The recording is available at https://dsd343.zoom.us/rec/share/GXXNcnxXD5uG68qQZWTsvYd29S3bdhDYQH1mUL6PiWfV86ez0fe_ZiInPQhyQEXP.e4c0ThF-jUE7_Rly. When prompted use r!#5eLLF as the passcode. There is an FAQ from the questions asked Monday as well at <https://www.dieringer.wednet.edu/common/pages/DisplayFile.aspx?itemId=29157047>.

The Health Department continues to guide our decisions on a safe return to in-person learning. Please remember to mask up, stay 6 feet apart, and stay home if you are not feeling well. It's also a good time to get your flu shot. Find more information and locations at tpchd.org/flu.

Thank you and also as a reminder we are delivering lunches again to students, more information about times and stops are available on our website at https://www.dieringer.wednet.edu/news/what_s_new/breakfast_and_lunch_delivery_by_bus.