



**REGIONAL SOLUTIONS OFFICE**  
**GOVERNOR KATE BROWN**

AGENDA

South Central Oregon Regional Economic Response/Recovery Team  
June 16, 2020  
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97965189101?pwd=QWZ4dFRmOFhrNElkanUzZktoUWlvZz09>

Meeting ID: 979 6518 9101

Password: 947802

One tap mobile

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Meeting ID: 979 6518 9101

3:00 Governor's Office Update - Annette Liebe, Regional Solutions Coordinator

3:10 Oregon Health Authority – Matt Green, Government Affairs Manager

Partner Updates (time permitting)

- a. Klamath Tribes
- b. Klamath County
- c. Lake County
- d. SCOEDD
- e. KCEDA
- f. SBDC

3:30 K-12 Re-opening Plan - Colt Gill, Director, Oregon Department of Education

4:00 Next steps/wrap up



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### MEETING SUMMARY

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#### Governor's Office Update

Annette Liebe gave an update from the Governor's Office. She said there has been changes to the Phase 2 outdoor recreation guidance, including for playgrounds and youth camping. The state also released FAQs related to public pools, swimming lessons and other aquatic activities. The best single place to go for this guidance is the Oregon Health Authority's Covid-19 page. Annette also mentioned that Governor Brown recently issued an executive order related to higher education.

#### Oregon Health Authority – Matt Green, Government Affairs Manager

Officials expected some increase in cases during the reopening, Matt said. The state also expected an increase in reported cases as testing expanded. Until recently, the positivity rate had been declining, with a low of 1.6 percent. Then it started to increase, which raised concern. The hospitalization rate also increased. This is concerning because there is a one-to-two week lag time between time of infection and the need to be hospitalized.

Another concern is the lack of success tracking infections to known cases. The state wanted to track cases back to a known source in at least 70 percent of cases. The state is not successfully tracking 70 percent of cases, which suggests more likelihood of community transmission. Officials have not yet found any evidence that protest rallies have been a means of widespread transmission. Instead, at least anecdotally, it seems that smaller group gatherings, including with extended families, are a larger source of transmission.

The governor and health officials look weekly at where various counties are at in terms of meeting their opening requirements. After seeing recent data, the governor decided to hit the one-week pause on new applications. All counties maintained their status quo in terms of where they were in the reopening process.

Since that pause, the state has seen at least two significant outbreaks. This includes Lincoln County with a seafood processing plant and Union County, where several hundred cases were tied to a large church gathering. These large isolated cases are on top of smaller increases statewide that were anticipated after the reopening. The severity and contagiousness of the recent cases seem to be lower than what the state saw previously. It's too early to know what all of this means in terms of future decisions on how or whether to proceed with the state's reopening framework. There is not a single trigger for knowing when the state would further pause or even go back into an earlier phase due to an increase in positive cases. That decision requires a fuller context of the situation and looks at numerous metrics, with rate of hospitalization being just one important criteria.

Matt said the state recently released a plan to test residents and employees of long-term care facilities monthly. Matt also said the state can do a better job of engaging with tribes, as some tribal members have experienced much higher positive rates than the rest of the population.

#### K-12 Re-opening Plan - Colt Gill, Director, Oregon Department of Education

Director Gill said the state conducted a lot of outreach to develop guidance for schools, connecting with more than 8,000 Oregonians on the plan. The state also reached out to other states to learn what other districts are doing related to reopening schools.

The guiding principles are to ensure safety, cultivate relationships and a sense of connection, focus on equity and remain committed to innovation. The state has provided statewide requirements and recommendations for reopening schools, and it is the responsibility of local districts to implement the plan in a manner most appropriate for them. The requirements relate directly to public health protection, including facilities, operations and responding to outbreaks. Oregon recognizes that we will be dealing with the virus until there is immunity, and every restriction lifted increases the potential for further transmission. The plan includes key principles to reduce potential exposures, including things like physical distancing, hand hygiene, working in cohorts, using protective equipment, etc. The state has provided tools and resources to districts to help meet these key principles.

Schools have to take several critical steps to reopen with in-person learning. They must read the guidance entirely, establish relationships with local public health, develop an operational blueprint and submit individual plans for each school to OHA and the Department of Education. Some schools and districts could do a hybrid reopening, with both in-person learning and distance learning as part of the plan. Different schools and districts will have different approaches to this, though all schools will need to have a plan in place for distance learning if there is a large outbreak.

The state is providing training for superintendents and principals on the guidance and reopening. The department will continue to communicate with students and families, as the guidance will likely change based on the pandemic. Updates to the guidance are planned for July and August. Director Gill said Governor Brown has set up a Governor's Healthy Schools Reopening Council to help inform and guide the reopening for schools, with broad representation from school officials, elected officials and others.

Director Gill said face coverings are recommended for some students and staff, and also required for some staff in certain situations. The guidance explains the specific requirements depending on the type of staff member and the amount of close contact they have with students.

George Lopez with Klamath Tribes commented that distance learning is challenging in some areas, so he would appreciate even more coordination between tribes and ODE on these types of reopening challenges. Director Gill said districts with tribal schools are strongly encouraged to go through the state's guidance process for schools, though the state can't require this.

Director Gill said it's too early to know what will happen with school athletics in the fall, including contact sports. Annette thanked Director Gill for giving the presentation to the group.

Annette asked for agenda topics for future meetings and adjourned.

