



# Fall Update on COVID-19 in Schools

November 1, 2021

RSSL Resiliency Framework Office Hours

# Winter is Coming Acknowledging Pandemic Fatigue & the Path Forward



**Communities are experiencing pandemic fatigue as a result of surging cases.**

- Many had hoped the pandemic would be over and life back to normal.

**Unlike last year, families are likely to travel and gather indoors to see their families and loved ones this year.**

- The Delta variant is taking a toll on communities and may have unforeseeable consequences this fall and winter.

# Our Goal

## Safely & reliably hold school in-person, all year



**It's our highest priority to keep kids learning in person every day.**

- Nearly all children learn better when taught in-person.
- Children and families rely on schools to provide a caring and safe environment.
- Many need access to a solid breakfast and a warm lunch.
- For parents and families, consistency matters, and for many, school is a way to ensure they can go to work and support their family.

# Our Plan

A statewide effort to keep students learning in-person



**Statewide, we are reigniting our efforts to remind, reteach and retrain health and safety protocols because:**

- Colder conditions will bring activities indoors.

**Schools have dedicated funding to invest in their efforts to layer health and safety protocols and maintain successful in-person learning.**

- Oregon received an unprecedented \$1.1 billion in federal monies to help safely reopen schools and sustain school operations.

# The Opportunity

## Strengthen health & safety protocols in all schools



**We can take steps now to create and maintain safe environments that keep our students learning in-person. This starts with using routines that everyone in a school can count on:**

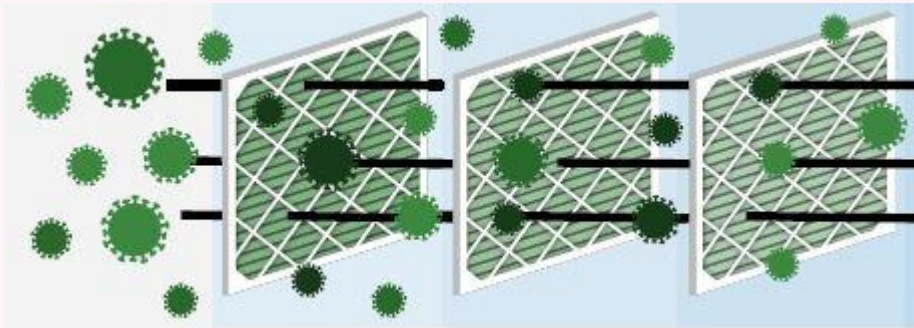
- Markings that support 3 to 6 feet of physical distance.
- Using seating charts and cohorts.
- Improving air circulation and ventilation.
- Providing diagnostic and screening testing for all students and staff.



# Every Layer Matters



# The Key Layering health & safety protocols



**Our best tool to limit the spread of COVID-19 is to follow a multi-layered approach to health & safety protocols:**

- ❑ Get vaccinated when eligible.
- ❑ Wear a face covering.
- ❑ Maintain 3-6 feet physical distance.
- ❑ Cohort students to reduce the number of people who come into contact with each other.
- ❑ Use seating charts in classrooms and on school buses.

# Additional Protocols

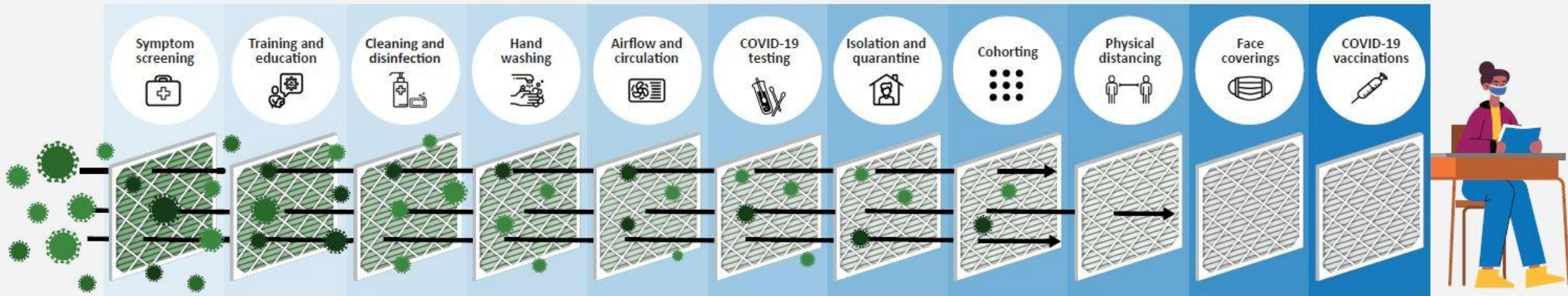
- ❑ Open windows and maximize airflow and circulation with outside air.
- ❑ Wash hands often.
- ❑ Clean high-touch surfaces.
- ❑ Teach parents and families how they can screen for symptoms and have children stay home when sick.
- ❑ Offer regular COVID-19 testing.
- ❑ Train and support teachers and school staff.
- ❑ Review and use the exclusion summary to ensure individuals who are sick stay at home.

## Where can we improve?



# Layering Health & Safety Protocols

Layered health and safety measures help us maximize full-time, in-person learning and reduce disruptions for students, staff and families. The virus can pass through one or two layers but not all. That's why every layer matters and every layer helps keep students in class.



# What does it mean to layer up?

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- When we talk about layering health and safety protocols -- **we're talking about using multiple distinct strategies** -- and the best tools we have, to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our schools.
- The layers work together to form layers of protection.
- The multi-layered approach allows Oregon's students to stay in school full-time.



# Next: Vaccines for Ages 5-11

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## Timeline of What We Know:

<b>October 26, 2021</b>	FDA meets to hear about vaccine safety and efficacy. Made recommendation to authorize use.
<b>November 2-3, 2021</b>	CDC vaccine advisory committee panel meets to recommend use.
<b>November 4, 2021 (to be determined)</b>	CDC Directors signs off on recommendations
<b>Early November (expected)</b>	Vaccines available for ages 5-11

# How We're Preparing: Vaccines for Ages 5-11

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## At the State Level

- OHA holding calls with Local Public Health Authorities (LPHAs)
- Planning for distribution
  - doctor's offices
  - pharmacies
  - school sites

## In our Community

- Add information as it becomes available



# A Look at the Current Data

# A Look Back

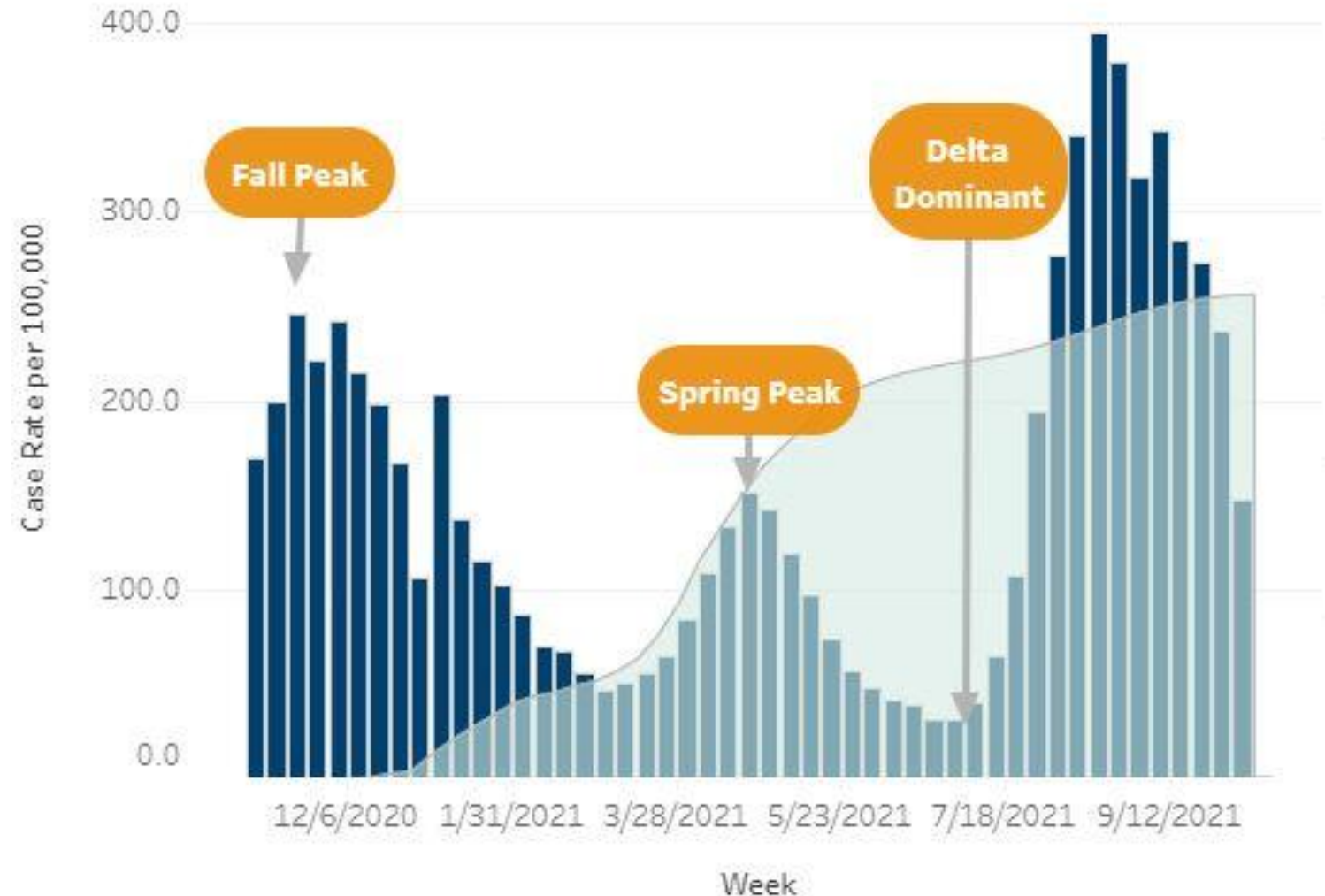
**Fall of 2020** - Oregon hit a record number of COVID-19 cases.

**Summer 2021** - The Delta Variant surges in Oregon. Hospital capacity compromised and community spread high among unvaccinated populations.

10/27/21 Source:

<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/oregon.health.authority.covid.19/viz/OregonCOVID-19CaseandVaccinationStories/Statewide>

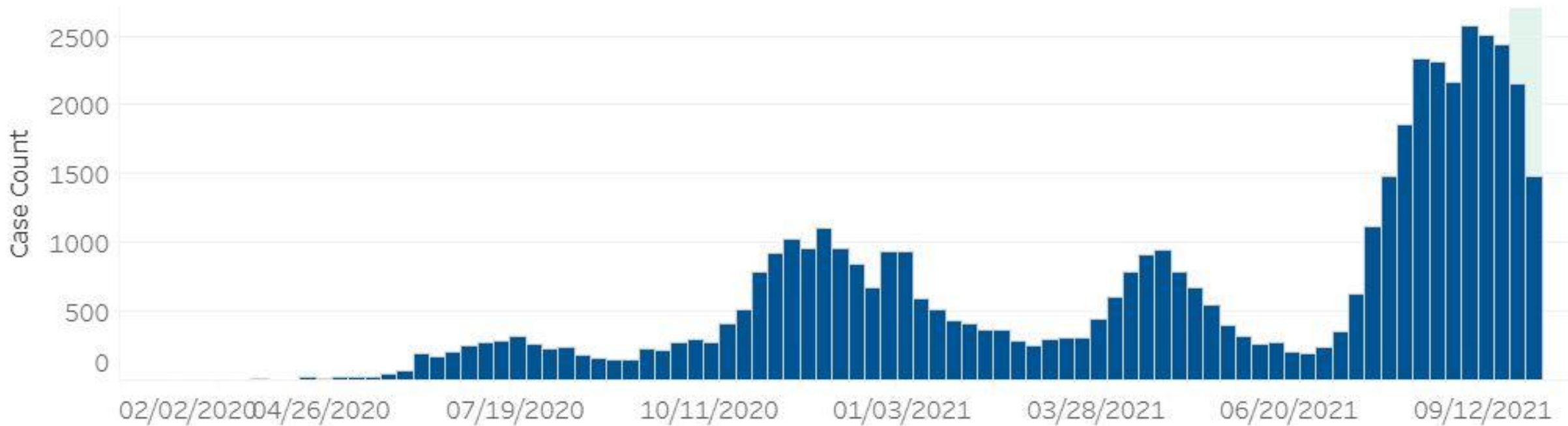
Oregon Department of Education



# Total COVID-19 Cases for Ages 6-17

## Pediatric COVID-19 case counts have increased dramatically since July 2021

The chart below shows the number of pediatric cases by week of onset. Illnesses that began in the last two weeks may not yet be reported.



10/27/21 Source:

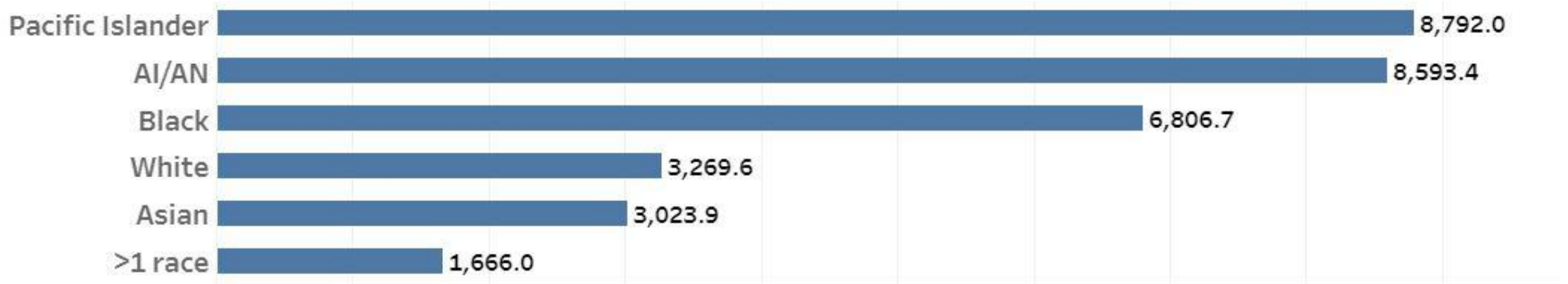
<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/oregon.health.authority.covid.19/viz/OregonCOVID-19PediatricReport/Demographics>



# Case Rates for Communities of Color (Ages 6-17)

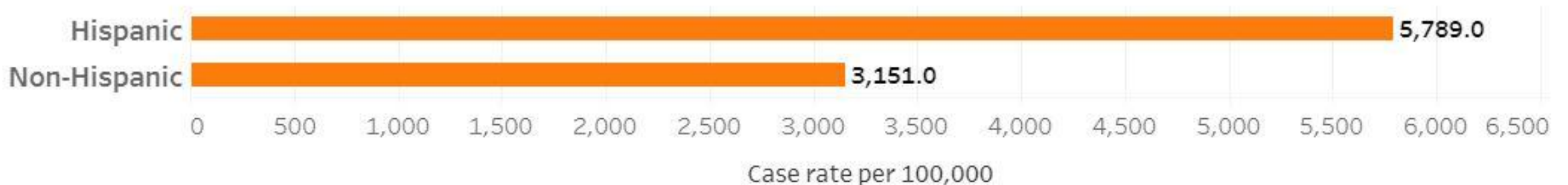
**Pediatric case rates are higher among people who identify as Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaska Native or Black**

The chart below shows the pediatric case rate per 100,000 by race.



**The pediatric case rate is higher among people who identify as Hispanic**

The chart below shows the pediatric case rate per 100,000 by ethnicity.



# Total Pediatric Cases in Our County

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Add your data here by using the data dashboard available at [www.oregondatadecisions.org](http://www.oregondatadecisions.org)



# A Call to Action

# Join In 5 Steps School Leaders Can Take Now



**Take these 5 steps to join the effort to keep our students safe in our schools.**

1. Review your health and safety protocols as a school team and ask what's working well, and where you can improve.
2. Retrain teachers and school staff.
3. Rely on clear protocols to help everyone in school know and follow the protocols.
4. Re-engage your school community in a conversation about the winter months and keeping our students safe.
5. Reiterate your priorities and the importance of layering in every communication from email to social media.

# 5 Steps for Families & Communities

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**Take these 5 steps to join the effort to keep our students safe in our schools.**

1. Make a plan to vaccinate all eligible household members.
2. Wear face coverings or masks in public and in carpools.
3. Limit gatherings with other households for now — including big events for kids, like birthday parties.
4. Move social activities outdoors.
5. [Make a plan in case your child needs to miss school.](#)



# What are we doing to deliver on our promise?



(Add local information here)