



Summit High School

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Michael McDonald Reno Holler Mary Thomas Kristy Knoll
Principal Asst Principal Asst Principal Dean/Asst Principal

February 10, 2021

RE: School Closure, Thursday, February 11

Dear Summit Families,

Following release of my communication earlier today about a COVID-19 positive person who had been at our school, parents reached out and made our team aware of additional positive cases of COVID-19 in our community. It is possible that a weekend party is tied to the exposures.

Out of an abundance of caution, and in partnership with health officials, Summit High School will be **closed on Thursday, February 11** for in-person instruction, athletics and activities so that we can continue to work with county health officials to complete additional case investigation and contact tracing that may be connected to the party and/or other exposures. **Students will receive instruction via Comprehensive Distance Learning on Thursday, and, as planned, on Friday, February 12.** All athletics and activities are cancelled through the long weekend.

Currently, we are working with Deschutes County Health to offer free testing on Friday for individuals who feel they may have been exposed. We encourage you to send your students to this event if they believe they may have been in contact with someone with COVID-19 in the community. (School sanctions will not be levied against students who test and who may have been at the party.) More information on this event will be shared as soon as possible.

While this testing event is not expected to be a standard moving forward, Deschutes County Public Health is able to provide this event due to the supply of rapid test-kits available.

Summit High School works hard to mitigate against COVID-19 exposure: personal measures, administrative measures, and engineering measures. We layer these on top of each other to reduce the overall risk of COVID-19 transmission for students and school staff.

- Personal measures: Individuals' behaviors to protect themselves and those around them
 - Please talk to your children about the critical role they play in keeping their family, friends, school, and community safe and healthy. Their actions can save lives: wear a mask, physically distance, *limit* your *gatherings*, and stay home when sick.
- Administrative measures: Processes and policies that keep people safe
- Engineering measures: Physical structures put in place to distance people from hazard

To say that I am disappointed that dozens of local youths were in attendance at a confirmed party, unmasked and crowded together, would be a gross understatement. While identification of the index cases has not yet been made, it remains quite plausible that the party may have created a super-spreader environment – jeopardizing our ability to return to school and to school related events.

Changing the world, one student at a time...

For all of our students who are making good decisions and staying safe, thank you. Your personal decisions that help to keep us all safe are immensely appreciated. Please keep up the good work and continue to make the right decisions, even when faced with peer pressure and temptation.

Please take a moment to review our [COVID-19 Communication Guide](#) for reminders of when to stay home, COVID-19 symptoms and more.

We know this is a hard time for our community and our hearts go out to those who are ill. Together, we will persevere.

Sincerely,

Michael McDonald

Note: If at any time you are identified as being a close contact to a person diagnosed with COVID-19, you will receive a close contact tracing communication. If you do not receive an individual contact, are not a close contact of the case. (Close contact: defined as having a cumulative of 15 minutes or more of less than 6-foot distancing within 24 hours.)