

*Baker Charter Schools
3000 Broadway St
Baker City, OR 97814*



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<http://www.bakercharters.org>*

BAKER CHARTER SCHOOLS

January 11th, 2021

RE: COVID-19 Update #4- Winter Update

Dear BCS Families and Staff,

Last week our team spent time evaluating the updated guidance from the Governor that came over winter break. Although some guidance has been updated our particular institution is not at a place we can alter our setup. Please read through the details below.

- a) **We still have to follow the metrics-** her statement encouraged us to make local decisions but still follow the metrics. Upon review, too many counties where we have centers and students are in the red zone 350 cases per 100,000 or higher. Since we are a statewide school we will continue to follow the guidelines and stay in Phase 3 response (full virtual) until the numbers get better. Oregon is currently at 352, Baker 529, Jefferson 1,149, Kalamath 513, Malheur 615, Marion 563, Morrow 512, Multnomah 342, Umatilla 832, and Washington 325 to list a few. Based on these metrics we cannot currently shift back to in-person options.
- b) **Vaccines for staff-** For staff who want them we want to provide the information, resources, and time for staff to get vaccinated. This is where our COVID-19 response energy will go for January, February, March, and beyond. We will more than likely not make any changes to our COVID-19 response until staff has had the opportunity to be sufficiently vaccinated.
- c) **Stability-** We discussed with leads, department chairs, BEC staff, and admin about the value of consistency during these unprecedented times. What we heard is that staff and students alike have arranged their own schooling, care, and schedules around a full virtual operation. Since our students are not struggling tremendously during virtual operations and for the stability of our families/staff we will stay full virtual through spring break. After spring break we may bring in supplemental activities such as student centers, field trips, etc. Home visits, advising sessions, and graduation are not on the table currently.
- d) **Student Centers-** After spring break, a successful vaccination program for staff, looking at current metrics, and evaluating our center staff needs we MAY consider having students into the centers after the break. We will make sure we have safety measures in place and it

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will only include staff who are comfortable with this option. Staff and students will have to complete training and comply with safety protocols. This is not final- but being considered.

- e) **Field Trips-** Outdoor field trips will appropriate social distancing and safety measures may be considered, once staff has been sufficiently vaccinated.
- f) **Home Visits/Advising Sessions-** will not return until fall. At this time we do not see a safe way to have this happen during the year.
- g) **Virtual Graduation-** At this time we are not sure the COVID-19 situation will be at a point by June where we can have large audiences of 300+ for graduations. Because we need to make space reservations now and most places are not taking reservations, we are leaning towards a virtual graduation and diploma drive-up option like last year.

BCS will maintain our Level 3 response status until further notice.

Cleaning Guidelines and Procedures for Necessary BCS Spaces

- For BCS spaces that need to remain open with limited in-person operations, please follow these cleaning guidelines. If additional janitorial costs are needed to ensure this or supplies- local staff are authorized to make those purchases.
- Daily clean all hard surfaces with a multipurpose cleaner containing bleach. Alcohol-based cleaners should have 70% or higher concentration.
- Launder clothing, towels, and other materials according to manufacturer guidelines on the hottest setting allowed
- Have tissue paper and waste cans readily available
- Have hand washing and sanitizing stations available
- Limit group size to 5 or less ideally with 10 being the most allowed in a space

Please continue to follow the guidance coming from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), your local health professionals, and similar agencies in regions you may be traveling to. [Click here for more information about COVID-19 from the CDC.](#) The Oregon Department of Education has also created a [help webpage](#) that is useful. Baker Charter Schools will continue to receive updates and follow the guidance from these organizations.

The current recommendations of the CDC and OHA are as follows:

- Elderly people above 60 and those with underlying health conditions are most at risk
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.

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- Public gatherings are prohibited under Executive Order 20-12 the “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” order
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 70% alcohol.
- Do not touch your face, eyes, or nose
- Take care of your health overall. Staying current on your vaccinations, including flu vaccine, eating well and exercising all help your body stay resilient.
- **Guidance on face masks has changed- they are recommended to be worn in public at all times.**

BCS Current Response Level is 3. We are in full virtual operations and all student centers are closed until further notice.

BCS Stage One - This stage would be initiated if/when the Coronavirus mutates to person-to-person transmission and arrives on the West Coast of the US.

- If students, parents, or siblings are ill stay home and switch to online meetings
- If local school districts, community colleges, or other places for scheduled meetings are closed due to coronavirus the event will meet online if possible, or be canceled.
- Janitorial changes to cleaning duties to emphasize classroom disinfecting
- Surfaces or objects (such as desktops, computers, mats, etc) commonly touched by students or other surfaces should be cleaned at least daily. Surfaces or objects soiled with blood or other body fluids should be cleaned and disinfected using gloves and any other precautions needed to avoid coming into contact with the fluid. Remove the spill, then clean and disinfect the surface.

BCS Stage Two – This stage would be initiated when a case appears in an area served by BCS staff

- Continue with employees/families staying home if ill and conduct online visits
- Cancel all large gatherings
- Cancel travel to impacted areas- if a school district, community college, or other meeting area is closed we will close our student centers, and meet online.
- An impacted area is when a school that is in close proximity to a student center is closed for COVID-19 contamination and cleaning. Oregon Health Authority is using counties to notify the public where confirmed cases are. We will use counties to make our determinations of impacted areas. Any county with two or more confirmed cases will be considered an impacted area.

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- We will only reopen a center after a thorough cleaning following OHA and CDC guidelines.
- School operations will go fully virtual in impacted areas.

BCS Stage Three- This stage would be initiated when either a State Agency instructs the schools to close or an event occurs involving a student, staff member or a relative of close proximal distance.

- All school business in impacted areas is conducted virtually
- Student centers closed in impacted areas
- Staff are required to say-'no comment' for media responses
- If a student has a confirmed case of COVID-19, will not use personally identifiable information to inform the school community of potential exposure to ensure we do not breach confidentiality or create stigma or discrimination.
- BCS will work with the local public health department to respond appropriately.
- Employees who appear to have acute respiratory illness symptoms upon arrival to work or become sick during the day should be separated from other employees and be sent home immediately.
- Emphasize staying home when sick, respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene by all employees.
- Employees who are well but who have a sick family member at home with COVID-19 should notify their supervisor and refer to CDC guidance for how to conduct a risk assessment of their potential exposure and contact their local public health department.
- If an employee is confirmed to have COVID-19 infection, employers should inform fellow employees of their possible exposure to COVID-19 in the workplace but maintain confidentiality as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Employees exposed to a co-worker with confirmed COVID-19 infection should refer to CDC guidance for how to conduct a risk assessment and contact their local public health department.

Recovery Stage - This stage begins when the Oregon Health Authority or other agency issues an all clear order for impacted areas

- Follow guidance from the Oregon Health Authority and Centers for Disease Control guidance on returning to normal activity
- Student centers are opened up in areas that are cleared
- Regular hand washing, cleaning, and general conditions return
- Visits that were canceled are resumed
- Travel approved to areas that are cleared

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Thank you for your cooperation during this time! We are wishing safety and health to our families and staff during this time.

Sincerely, Daniel Huld, Ed. D.- Superintendent