

September 28, 2020

Dear Parents and Community Members,

As required by the Safe Learners Ready Schools guidance, I am taking this opportunity to update you on the latest increase in new COVID case counts in Benton County. In order for in-person instruction to continue at the Alsea Charter School the average weekly number of COVID Cases per 100,000 people must be below 30 for an average of three weeks.

Beginning the week of September 13th-20th, Benton County saw a spike in the number of confirmed COVID cases due in large part to students returning for in-person instruction at OSU. The number of cases per 100,000 came to 36 followed by 32 per 100,000 for the week of 9/20-27. Currently, we are good to stay open for the week of 9/28-10/2 and this clearance has been approved by OHA/ODE and the Benton County Health Department.

Unfortunately, this trend is not good and unless we see a sizable drop in COVID case counts this week (9/28-10/2) we may be faced with a three week average that will require a transition to Comprehensive Distance Learning (CDL). The staff and administration at Alsea are fully prepared for this transition, and we will seamlessly continue providing quality learning instruction at a distance.

In the meantime, we are hoping for the best while notifying all our amazing families that a transition to CDL may be coming soon. In the meantime, we will continue to monitor the situation as it evolves in the coming days.

We ask that everyone do their best to remain vigilant with lots of hand washing, mask wearing and social distancing so as to help keep our in-person school open:) For up to date information regarding COVID cases in Benton County visit the following link:

<https://www.co.benton.or.us/covid19#Live%20Dashboards>

Feel free to email me if you have questions at marc.thielman@alsea.k12.or.us, or call me on my mobile at 509-220-5313. Go Wolverines!!!

Sincerely,

Marc Thielman
Alsea Superintendent/K-12 Principal
541-487-4305 Ext. 201