

March 3, 2020 update:

Due to growing concerns about the novel coronavirus as well as seasonal illnesses from the flu and common cold, Roseburg Public Schools is taking proactive measures to help keep students, families and staff healthy.

- Our schools have distributed information to students and families about preventive measures that can be taken to help avoid these illnesses, such as regular hand-washing and covering your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze. These materials can be found on our Coronavirus Updates and Information page on our website.
- The district's custodial staff is using a hospital-grade disinfectant and has been directed to prioritize the cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surface areas throughout our schools, such as door knobs, handrails and countertops.
- Our Nutrition Services Department has suspended salad bar service during meals. Although sneeze guards are in place at the salad bars, this action will prevent multiple students from using the same salad utensils. Students will instead be served fruits and vegetables directly from a food service employee behind the serving line.
- School administrators are also reviewing practices around the use of community school supplies like shared pencil containers in classrooms and other items likely to be touched by multiple students.
- The district is emphasizing the importance of students and staff staying home when ill. School attendance, while important, should not be prioritized over student health.

"We have implemented these precautionary measures in an effort to further prioritize the safety of our students, staff and community," said Superintendent Jared Cordon. "These measures are also likely to lessen the cases of flu and other illnesses, and keep our kids healthy and safe. The school district will continue to take guidance from the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and will closely monitor the rapidly changing situation."

While the spread of novel coronavirus is troubling, please remember that fear, rumors and stigma do nothing to stop the further spread of the disease. Facts and science, proven public health measures and common-sense precautions in our personal lives are the best measures we can take to protect the people we serve.

For the most accurate and up-to-date information about the coronavirus, you can visit the Oregon Health Authority website at [www.oregon.gov/oha](http://www.oregon.gov/oha).