

July 14, 2020

Omak School District Parents and Guardians,

We want nothing more than a return to “normal” for the community of staff, students and parents/guardians of the Omak School District. However, the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic, the lack of a vaccination, and the direction of the Washington State Governor will not allow us to return to school in the same manner as usual for the 2020-21 school year.

The Omak School District has formed a 55-member advisory committee composed of administrators, staff and parents to try to determine what “back to school” looks like this fall for Omak, while keeping students and staff safe. Whether we agree or not, as of today the following are the requirements we must follow from the Washington State Governor’s Office, the Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and the state Department of Health (DOH) to open our schools:

- Daily health screening (temperature checks) will occur upon entering schools
- Frequent hand washing throughout the day
- Face coverings must be worn on the school bus and in the classroom
- Social distancing of 6-feet is the expectation in schools
- Daily sanitizing of buses and classrooms must take place

As this advisory committee is working to develop a plan for a safe return, we know that there is no perfect idea which will work for every family or situation. The committee is doing their best to develop a plan that follows the requirements of our state agencies, while still providing safe, equitable and effective education in our schools. More information will be shared as we continue to make progress with our plan.

To help guide our planning to safely reopen the Omak schools, please take a few minutes to complete the survey which can be found at the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZRNV3CP>

Thank you for your time and support of the Omak School District.

Sincerely,

Michael Porter  
Omak School District Superintendent