

Preparing for and Responding to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) as a Parent or Family of a Child who Experiences Disability

DEVELOPED BY:



The world is responding to an unprecedented public health crisis, the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). In response to this crisis, Governor Kate Brown has closed schools for students in Oregon. While this closure presents significant challenges, it is the best way to flatten the curve, slow the rate of transmission, and protect the lives of Oregonians. The safety, health and welfare of students and their families, and our school communities is our top priority.

About the Coronavirus (COVID-19)

According to the [Centers for Disease Control](#) (CDC), the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness caused by a new virus, with symptoms that include fever, cough, and shortness of breath which may appear between two and 14 days after exposure. See [this CDC page for a quick fact sheet on COVID-19](#) and [this CDC page has more information about preventing COVID-19](#).

What Parents Need to Know:

- The response to this virus is fast changing and brings uncertainty, requiring all of us to do our best to keep informed of decisions being made to keep our communities safe. Some decisions are made at the federal level, some are made at the state level by either the Governor or the Oregon Department of Education, and some are made by your local school district. Therefore, make sure you are connected to your district to keep up to date. District contact information is available [here](#).
During this school closure, public schools shall provide distance learning for all students, including continuing to provide special education supports, provide school meals in non-congregate settings, and develop plans for the operation of essential, non-educational services, including food services.
- The Oregon Department of Education is working to provide guidance and support to school districts while we navigate this situation together, and maintains [this site](#) with resources. In general, while your child continues to have a right to a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE), learning and the instructional experience will take new shape as districts and programs across the state implement a distance learning model for all students. This [Parent FAQ](#) provides more information.
- Though this situation may feel incredibly isolating, you are not alone. Many organizations, including [FACT Oregon](#), [Reach Out Oregon](#), and [OHSU Family-to-Family Health Information Center](#), are working to provide resources via websites, webinars, and social media. This [resource list](#) provides more information.