

District News: Letter based on further guidance given by the Snohomish County Health Department.

October 14, 2020

Good afternoon Students, Families, Teachers and Staff,

Yesterday I sent out communication that we were advised to delay the re-opening of schools on October 19<sup>th</sup>. This morning the Snohomish County Health Department refined their guidance and is now allowing schools to proceed with small groups of in-person instruction based on the stable number of COVID patients hospitalized or in long term care facilities despite an increase in COVID cases per 100,000. Regardless, we appreciate the reconsideration by the Department of Health and now plan to re-open October 26<sup>th</sup> for specific and identified students **PENDING** any further guidance by the Health Department on October 20<sup>th</sup> to county school districts. Let me say that again, in a different way.

- 1) Today, districts received revised guidance for re-opening. Guidance is dependent on health conditions.
- 2) We are to planning to re-open to identified students on Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup> (this would be the same students that were scheduled to return on October 19<sup>th</sup>).
- 3) On Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, the County Health Department will review the next set of numbers and provide a firm "go" or "stop" for the following week(s).

The Health Department also asked that Districts remind its patrons to wear a mask, wash hands frequently and stay home if sick. These actions will help drive the case number per 100,000 down.

There are many moving pieces and many things beyond our control. What we can control is the preparation for October 26<sup>th</sup> and subsequent dates as we bring more and more students back.

Let's hope the news on October 20<sup>th</sup> is good and healthy.

Be well, be safe,

Dr. M