

## DISTANT TSUNAMI GUIDELINES

### Lincoln County School District

When there is a significant earthquake a large distance from the Oregon Coast, from an earthquake that we do not feel, a **Distant Tsunami** can follow. The National Tsunami Warning Center in Palmer, Alaska (tsunami.gov) is the government organization that provides information to the public regarding tsunami threats to our area. Depending on the location of the earthquake, we can have four hours or more notice in advance of a potential tsunami hazard reaching our coastline.

There are four separate alert levels: *Information Statement*, *Watch*, *Advisory*, and *Warning*. Each has a distinct meaning and suggested action:

Alert Level	Potential Hazards	Action
<b>Information Statement</b>	No threat, or hazard has not been determined	No action suggested at this time
<b>Watch</b>	Hazard not yet known	Stay tuned for more information Be prepared to act
<b>Advisory</b>	Strong currents and waves dangerous to those in or very near water	Stay out of water, away from beaches and waterways
<b>Warning</b>	Dangerous coastal flooding and powerful currents	Move to high ground or inland

A *Cancellation* is issued after an evaluation of water-level data confirms that a destructive tsunami will not impact an area under a *Watch*, *Advisory*, or *Warning*, or that a tsunami has diminished to a level where additional damage is not expected.

When our area is under a Tsunami *Watch*, *Advisory* or *Warning*, the Superintendent or his/her designee will use these guidelines to help with decision-making as LCSD works to keep students, staff, and school district property safe.

---

*All bus drivers must be out of the tsunami zone no later than  
1-hour before the estimated wave arrival time.*

---

#### **TSUNAMI WATCH**

When a Tsunami “*Watch*” is issued, the National Tsunami Warning Center will assess the situation and modify the *Watch* status to either a *Cancellation*, *Advisory*, or *Warning*. If safe to do so, the school district will likely wait until the *Watch* status changes to announce decisions about the school day. If a *Watch* is issued before buses leave for their morning routes, the Superintendent may decide to delay school while waiting for further information from the National Tsunami Warning Center. The location and size of the earthquake, and the estimated tsunami arrival time can affect these decisions.

#### **TSUNAMI ADVISORY**

When a Tsunami “*Advisory*” is issued, all activity trips located in (or driving through) low lying areas (beaches, harbors, estuaries, rivers, ocean, etc.) will be cancelled. This also includes sailing, kayaking, surfing, and other activities. If these trips are already in progress, they will be cancelled and students returned to their school of origin or nearest shelter school, depending on timing and safety.

## **TSUNAMI WARNING**

The time that a Tsunami *“Warning”* is issued will influence decision-making regarding responses.

Non-School Hours: If a Tsunami *“Warning”* is issued before bus routes begin in the morning:

- School will be cancelled, including all activity trips and extra-curricular activities.
- Buses will not run.

Morning Arrival: When a Tsunami *“Warning”* is issued while buses are en route during morning arrival:

- School will be cancelled, including all activity trips and extra-curricular activities.
- Buses will continue to pick up students on the route and then bring all students to their assigned schools.
- Parents dropping off children at school will be advised of the Tsunami Warning, that school is cancelled, and not to drop off their children.
- Student *“walkers”* will remain at the school until a Family Reunification is made.
- Family Reunification will take place at each individual school for students already at school or brought to school by buses. It is important to prevent students from leaving campus without conducting a formal Family Reunification process. Student accountability is essential. A Code Yellow Lockdown status will help in this regard.
- Buses will not take students home. The estimated wave arrival time will affect decisions about keeping buses at the schools or returning them to their bus barns. Lincoln City buses will remain at the schools.
- Bus drivers must be out of the tsunami zone at least 1 hour before the estimated wave arrival time.

School Hours: When a Tsunami *“Warning”* is issued while school is in session:

- School may continue, end early, or be cancelled, depending on timing.
- All Activity Trips and extra-curricular activities will be cancelled. Trips already in progress will return to their school of origin or nearest shelter school, depending on timing and safety. Bus drivers must be out of the tsunami zone at least 1 hour before the estimated wave arrival time.
- All schools will go into a Code Yellow Lockdown and continue indoor educational activities as much as feasible while plans are made for Family Reunification.
- Family Reunification will take place at each individual school as soon as parents are able to pick up their children. It is important to prevent students from leaving campus without conducting a formal Family Reunification process. Student accountability is essential. A Code Yellow Lockdown will help in this regard.
- At the end of the school day, all remaining students will be relocated (by bus or on foot) to the school designated to shelter students in that area. Oceanlake Elementary School may be an exception due to its geographic distance from Taft 7-12. Designated Shelter Schools (Waldport High, Toledo Elementary, Taft High, and Newport Middle) will prepare to shelter any remaining students from schools in their area who were not able to be picked up at their schools. Family Reunification for all remaining students will be at the shelter school.
- Buses will not take students home. Depending on timing and bus driver availability, a few buses will be staged at each school and be available to move remaining students to shelter schools.
- If overnight shelter of remaining students is necessary, follow our *“School Sheltering & Overnight Stays”* guidelines.

Afternoon Dismissal: When a Tsunami *“Warning”* is issued during afternoon dismissal:

- All activity trips and extra-curricular activities will be cancelled. Trips already in progress will return to their school of origin or nearest shelter school, depending on timing and safety.
- Buses may be directed to finish their routes or immediately take students to the nearest shelter school. This will be decided on a case-by-case basis depending on the timing of the *“Warning.”*
- Bus drivers must be out of the tsunami zone at least 1 hour before the estimated wave arrival time.

## SAMPLE DISTANT TSUNAMI MESSAGES

### Distant Tsunami – 2 Hour Delay Today ENGLISH

- This is an important bilingual message from Lincoln County School District. Today is (Day of week, Date). It is (TIME).
- All Lincoln County School District Schools are on a two-hour delay today due to the threat of a Distant Tsunami.
- I repeat. All Lincoln County School District Schools are on a two-hour delay today.
- Please listen to your local news stations for more information. Thank you.

### Distant Tsunami – 2 Hour Delay Today SPANISH

- Este es un mensaje importante bilingüe del Distrito Escolar del Condado Lincoln. Hoy es (Day of week, Date, Time).
- Todas las Escuelas del Distrito Escolar del Condado Lincoln estarán con un retraso de dos horas por la advertencia de un Tsunami distante.
- Repito, todas las Escuelas del Distrito Escolar del Condado Lincoln estarán con un retraso de dos horas.
- Por favor escuche las estaciones de noticias locales para más información e instrucciones acerca de la advertencia de un Tsunami

### Distant Tsunami – School Closed Today ENGLISH

- This is an important bilingual message from Lincoln County School District. Today is (Day of week, Date). It is (TIME).
- All Lincoln County School District Schools are closed today due to the threat of a Distant Tsunami.
- I repeat. All Lincoln County School District Schools are closed today
- Please listen to your local news stations for more information. Thank you.

### Distant Tsunami – School Closed Today SPANISH

- Este es un mensaje importante bilingüe del Distrito Escolar del Condado Lincoln. Hoy es (Day of week, Date, Time).
- Todas las Escuelas del Distrito Escolar del Condado Lincoln estarán cerradas por la advertencia de un Tsunami distante.
- Repito, todas las Escuelas del Distrito Escolar del Condado Lincoln estarán cerradas hoy.
- Por favor escuche las estaciones de noticias locales para más información e instrucciones acerca de la advertencia de un Tsunami

## RED CROSS SHELTERS

If school is not in session during a distant tsunami, City or County officials may ask the Red Cross to open shelters for the community. In that case, the Red Cross may contact the Superintendent or his/her designee to obtain permission to use our schools as shelters. School district staff members should not take it upon themselves to open our schools to community members seeking shelter – this is the job of the Red Cross. It can be difficult to resist opening the school to community members waiting outside in the weather for the Red Cross. However, the Red Cross has specific protocols for opening and running a shelter that we need to honor. Some of our school staff members are also trained Red Cross volunteers. If the Red Cross has opened one of our schools as a shelter, a staff member can volunteer for the Red Cross as a Red Cross volunteer, not a school employee.

---

*School Staff do not  
open or run  
community shelters.  
This is the job of the  
Red Cross.*

---

## BUS SERVICES

First Student Bus Company may make bus services available to local Emergency Services agencies (if requested) to assist with evacuations. It is mandatory that all school bus drivers be out of the tsunami zone at least 1 hour before the estimated wave arrival time.