



Chaffee County Public Health

448 East 1st Street · Suite 137 · Salida, CO · Phone 719-539-4510 · Fax 719-539-7197

Dear Parents,

There is a positive case of COVID-19 at Salida High School. Each case of COVID-19 is interviewed by public health. As part of this public health investigation:

- The people diagnosed are being kept home from school until they are no longer infectious.
- The people's mask use, social distancing, and activities while infectious were assessed.
- The people who were close contacts of the persons with COVID-19 are instructed to stay home from school for 14 days after the exposure. This is called quarantine.

The parents of all students known to have close contact with the positive COVID-19 case will be notified today October 6, 2020. They will be instructed to keep their children in quarantine for 14 days from their last exposure to the positive case. Staff who were in close contact with the positive case have also been instructed to quarantine for 14 days. Public Health will also be contacting all students, staff, and other individuals that have been in contact with the positive case outside of the school setting. They will also be asked to quarantine for 14 days from their last exposure.

If you have not received contact from the school by the end of today 10/6/20, as far as we are aware at this time, we do **not** believe your child was in close contact with anyone with COVID-19 while in school.

Based on protocol developed over the summer and through discussions today with our COVID-19 response team, we have decided to move to remote learning for the entire District for the rest of this week. A District closure for the rest of the week allows us time to do thorough contact tracing and exposure notification. Public Health will use this time to determine if other schools and students are impacted. We are offering COVID-19 testing to many of the close contacts in order to determine the degree of spread of COVID-19, if any. Results for these tests take 3-5 days to come in, thus the reason for closure for the remainder of the week.

If you have not received contact from the school or Public Health that your child is a close contact, your child does not need to observe quarantine or isolation protocols. However, it is important that during this time you continue to help stop the spread of COVID-19 by wearing masks, limiting your social interactions, staying home when sick, washing your hands, and avoiding crowded indoor spaces.

We ask that you also regularly monitor your child for symptoms of COVID-19. If your child develops [symptoms](#) consistent with COVID-19:

- Follow [these isolation instructions](#).
- Have your child tested (further instructions below).
- Keep your child home from school and avoid other activities around other people.
- Notify the school.
- Seek medical care and testing for COVID-19, calling your doctor before you show up.



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We do not recommend testing for students who were not close contacts, unless they become symptomatic. If your child does become symptomatic, we recommend you work with your primary care physician to determine if your child needs a COVID-19 test.

Under the [Healthy Families and Workplaces Act \(“HFWA”\)](https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdle/interpretive-notice-formal-opinions-infos), an employer must provide paid leave to an employee under certain conditions, including taking care of someone else due to COVID-19 precautions, including a child whose school, place of care, or child care is closed or unavailable. [link: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdle/interpretive-notice-formal-opinions-infos>]

If you have further questions, please contact Chaffee County Public Health.

Sincerely,

Andrea Carlstrom
Public Health Director
Chaffee County Public Health

