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### **Multiple COVID-19 positives at area schools**

*Eight incidents since November 10 send 139 to quarantine  
at AES, BMHS, ECCA, EELC, EVHS, and HPS*

**Eagle, CO** – Eagle County Schools announced that since Tuesday, November 10, eight incidents at area schools have resulted in COVID-19 notifications going home to families. Among all 7,000-ish students and staff, the incidents at AES, the Afterschool Program at AES, BMHS, EELC, EVHS, and HPS resulted in a combination of 121 students and 18 staff being issued quarantine orders. One student at ECCA will quarantine due to their close contact with a positive case at the AES Afterschool Program. Additionally, one school principal is quarantining due to a positive case in their household.

Public Health notifies the school district of a positive case with ties to the schools, either as a student or staff member. Working collaboratively, Public Health and the district pull relevant schedules, seating charts, and begin interviewing the positive case and those who might have been in close contact with them while infectious. A careful list is developed of those students or staff who need to quarantine to contain the potential spread. Those needing to quarantine are called and emailed promptly, including in the evenings and over weekends.

Quarantine orders protect the broader population from those who may be contagious, asymptomatic, or most likely to develop symptoms. The layers of protection at schools, mainly wearing face coverings and social distancing, help significantly reduce the risk of contracting the virus. So far, Public Health has identified one incident where transmission could have occurred at a school and between teacher and student. In that instance, the teacher was asymptomatic and was not confirmed positive until after a student tested positive.

As positive cases mount, the challenge of keeping schools operational in-person also climbs. Staff members may be out due to a positive case in their household, their child being on quarantine, or because they are positive or on quarantine themselves. Systemwide staff absences can strain the district's ability to remain open. Anticipate more cohort, grade level, and school level transitions to remote learning as the community enters the new Orange High Risk phase. Hopefully, the new restrictions will help turn the tide of virus transmission to lower levels.

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