

Philip Qualman

Superintendent
philip.qualman@eagleschools.net



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 10, 2020

A flurry of quarantine notices sent from Eagle County Schools

Positive cases result in quarantine notices at BMHS, EVHS, GES, EES, and HPS

Eagle, CO – Eagle County Schools announced that since Friday, November 6, many positive cases at area schools have resulted in COVID-19 notifications going home to families. Among all students and staff, 10 positive cases since Friday at BMHS, EVHS, GES, EES, and HPS resulted in a combination of 146 students and 17 staff being issued quarantine orders. Generally, 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 protect those exposed from actually acquiring the virus. So far, Public Health has identified one incident where transmission could be traced to 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 the rate of cases, percent of positivity, and local hospitalizations have dramatically increased, so has the number of positive cases having some school-time contact at the onset of the illness.

For weeks, local, state, and national Public Health agencies have been sharing trend data that suggests the increase in cases is happening mostly through personal transmission at the household level. Locally, new measures have been issued to limit private gatherings to no more than ten people from no more than two households. These measures have met some resistance as we all experience pandemic fatigue. The recent positive cases and resultant quarantines at the schools have been fourth and fifth generations of infection. The goal is limiting spread to first or second generations.

In personal and private gatherings, it can be awkward or uncomfortable to be vigilant about wearing masks and practicing social distance when you are with close friends, families, and even neighbors. To suppress the rising cases, the community will need to continue being intentional

pho: 970 328-6321 fax: 970 328-1024

web: eagleschools.net • twitter: @eagleCOSchools • facebook: eagle.schools • 948 Chambers Ave • PO Box 740 • Eagle, CO 81631

Philip Qualman

Superintendent
philip.qualman@eagleschools.net



about practicing safeguards in our personal interactions. Eagle County Schools is very grateful for the vast majority of parents who are working tirelessly alongside our staff to follow recommendations and keep students healthy and in school.

With parent support and collaboration, we continue to safeguard against school transmission by adhering to our layers of protection:

- Staying home if sick
- Wearing face coverings
- Maintaining as much distance as possible
- Practicing good hand hygiene and frequent cleaning
- Conducting daily symptom screenings

pho: 970 328-6321 fax: 970 328-1024

web: eagleschools.net • twitter: @eagleCOSchools • facebook: eagle.schools • 948 Chambers Ave • PO Box 740 • Eagle, CO 81631