

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 1, 2020

Homestake Peak School latest to send quarantine notices

Eighteen students, one staff to quarantine

Eagle, CO – Eagle County Schools announced that a COVID-19 notification was sent on Monday, December 1 to families of Homestake Peak School after a student tested positive. Public Health conducted contact tracing and determined that those in close contact with the positive case should quarantine. Eighteen students and one staff member will quarantine. Twenty-nine additional students and two staff members will transition to remote learning. Those impacted can return to school on Tuesday, December 15.

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.

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 in the Orange High Risk phase. Hopefully, the new restrictions will help turn the tide of virus transmission to lower levels.