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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Two positive COVID-19 cases quarantine nine at Battle Mountain High School

Two staff and seven students out

Eagle, CO – Eagle County Schools announced that COVID-19 notifications were sent to the families of Battle Mountain High School on Thursday afternoon regarding two unrelated positive cases at the school. In one instance, a staff member tested positive, and through contact tracing by Public Health, was determined not to have had contact with other staff or students. In that case, no additional quarantine orders were issued. The second case involved a student and Public Health determined through contact tracing that those who had close contact with the student should quarantine. Related to this case, one staff member and six other students were directed to quarantine. The positive student was last at school on Tuesday, October 27, 2020. Impacted students and staff members received quarantine orders from Public Health.

The district has had to quarantine and transition students and staff to temporary remote learning since the start of the school year due to isolated positive cases. These efforts have been to contain the spread of the virus and do not mean those students contracted the virus. To the contrary, the mitigation efforts so far have prevented transmission in schools. 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

Public Health has moved to its process of focused quarantining. Rather than blanket quarantines based on a specific cohort size, Public Health is looking at seating charts, lunch partners, extracurricular activities, and honing their focus on those who had the closest contact with a positive case. This keeps more students and staff members on their regular schedule while still protecting the school population.

The school district thanks Public Health for their ongoing support in managing this process and keeping our students and staff safe and healthy.

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