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**Two positive COVID-19 cases cause quarantines
at both primary high schools**

Twenty-four students and six staff directed to quarantine

Eagle, CO – Eagle County Schools announced that COVID-19 notifications were sent to the families of both Eagle Valley and Battle Mountain high schools on Wednesday afternoon regarding one positive case at each school. At Battle Mountain, a staff member tested positive, and through contact tracing by Public Health, six staff members and fifteen students were directed to quarantine. At Eagle Valley, a student tested positive, resulting in nine other students to quarantine. Both positive cases were traced to household transmission. So far, no transmission of the virus has happened at school. Positive cases have been identified, precautionary quarantines have been implemented by Public Health, and no student-to-student, student-to-staff, or staff-to-student transmission has happened as a result.

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

The Battle Mountain High School staff member was last in the building on Tuesday, October 20. Students and staff directed to quarantine are eligible to return to school on Wednesday, November 4.

The Eagle Valley High School student was last in the building on Monday, October 19, with students out for quarantine eligible to return to school on Tuesday, November 3.

If these quarantine numbers seem low, it's because they are, and that's part of the good news. Because the mitigation strategies are working so well, Public Health has moved to its process of

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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 students 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.

“COVID-19 remains a very challenging issue for our community and the school district,” said Superintendent Philip Qualman. “We’re very grateful to our parents, students, and staff for the tremendous efforts they’re making with face coverings, social distancing, and being careful outside of school. As a community, we should be proud of our collective effort. I know I am.”

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