

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 5, 2021

## **AES staff member tests positive**

*Students not impacted*

**Eagle, CO** – Eagle County School District announced that Avon Elementary School sent notifications to their community today after Public Health informed them of a staff member testing positive for COVID-19. Contact tracing determined that one other staff member was in close contact with the positive case and would need to quarantine. No students had close contact or need to quarantine. In addition, a third staff member, in an unrelated incident, will quarantine due to close contact with a positive case outside of school.

Eagle County Schools has adopted the new quarantine protocols from the US Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). The new guidance shortens the duration for general quarantine orders from 14 days to 10 days, and allows staff members or students to return to school after 7 days with a negative test result. Students or staff members must wait to be tested between the fifth and seventh day of their quarantine period, and *if negative and symptom free* can return to normal activities on the eighth day.

The district continues to thank the families of students and our staff members for following guidelines and staying home when sick, when someone in their household is being tested for COVID-19, or when someone in their household is positive for the virus. Limiting the presence of the virus in our schools by staying home is our first layer of protection. The persistent and consistent use of face masks and social distancing within schools help control and contain the virus. Focused quarantining by Public Health separates those most at-risk of exposure to protect the broader school community. So far, very few cases have developed among those in quarantine.

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 in 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.