

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 12, 2021

### **Multiple schools send COVID notices**

*In total, 27 students and 3 staff members out*

**Eagle, CO** – Eagle County School District announced that multiple schools sent COVID notifications to their communities recently. Battle Mountain High School sent notifications last night after Public Health notified them of a student presumed to be positive for COVID-19. Eagle Valley High School also sent notices after Public Health informed them yesterday of a student testing positive. In both cases, contact tracing determined that those in close contact with either of the positive cases should quarantine. Those needing to quarantine were contacted directly and provided with quarantine orders from Public Health. Fifteen students at BMHS will quarantine, and twelve students at EVHS will quarantine.

Brush Creek Elementary School notified their community today after Public Health informed them of a staff member testing positive for COVID-19. In this instance, contact tracing determined that no other students or BCES staff will need to quarantine. Additionally, two Berry Creek Middle School staff members tested positive for COVID-19 in separate, unrelated instances. One was last in school before the winter break, and the other on Monday, January 4. No other BCMS staff members or students need to quarantine as a result of either of these cases.

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.