

This document is meant to be a guide for rural schools returning to learning during the current COVID-19 pandemic.

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(This panel will continuously monitor the state, county, and CDC guidance and will make appropriate adjustments as more information is disseminated and learned about COVID-19).

Colorado Rural School and COVID-19

Understanding that Rural schools have unique challenges that are much different than suburban or urban schools we should take that into consideration when putting forth strategies to re-open and maintain continuity for our educators and the student body while navigating the complexities of COVID-19.

The following approaches are based on the CDC guidelines in addition to understanding that schools and teachers are essential workers and critical infrastructures to their surrounding communities and should follow the guidelines consistent with essential workers.

All teachers will be required to self-monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 in addition to being screened prior to entering the building with a COVID-19 questionnaire and Temperature checks. Parents will need to participate at home with self-monitoring of their children in addition to the child having temperature screenings performed during entry into the building and throughout the day depending on the status of the cohort or school.

This protocol addresses the teachers and employers' protocol for maintaining operations of rural schools and avoiding closures to ensure the student body is being properly educated. The student body is considered in these protocols and included in the solutions. However, it is the responsibility of the parents and family cohort to monitor the student while at home and amongst the community exposures.

If a student is identified by the parent or school to have COVID-19 symptoms, exposure to a COVID-19 positive person, or positive COVID-19 test all exposures to that individual including class cohorts should follow the guidance set forth below in the yellow category with the understanding that the individual identified should follow the CDC guidance as well as the individual's healthcare provider's guidance for return to school. **If a student tests positive for COVID -19 the situation would assed with a multi discipline team of experts to determine the proper course of action.**

Understand that not all symptoms consistent with COVID-19 are COVID-19. For instance, students with an inner ear infection can present with several symptoms associated with COVID-19 and do not require quarantine or risk mitigation strategies for

the cohort or close contacts. With that said, if that student was identified as having symptoms consistent with COVID-19 the student will be placed in an isolation room with supervision and the parents called to pick student up. It will then be the parents or family cohort's responsibility to have them seen by their provider and their provider will determine the appropriate return to school protocol.

Protocols for managing COVID-19 and rural schools:

Assuming cohorting, proper PPE, and social distancing when available.

All Pikes Peak BOCES School nurses will be trained to properly screen students for COVID-19 symptoms

Green: no exposures or suspected exposure

Yellow: (14-day protocol) Exposure to suspected COVID-19 or positive teacher or student

- a. Increase temperature checks to twice daily for cohort
- b. Implement hourly hygiene breaks consisting of alcohol hand sanitizer and wiping down workstations and desks.
- c. Hypervigilance for symptoms consistent with COVID-19
- d. Staff and cohort will have meals in the classroom

Red: Governor mandated shut down (Stay at Home Order)

- a. Maintain groups of ten or less
- b. Continue safety protocols

Identification of potential risk of infection will be made by continuous observation and screening of students, faculty, and staff with exclusion from District facilities for:

Anyone of the following:

- New onset of cough
- Shortness of breath

Or at least two of the following:

- Fever (100.4 Fahrenheit or higher)
- Chills
- Muscle pain
- Sore throat
- Loss of sense of smell or taste
- Gastrointestinal symptoms of diarrhea, vomiting, or nausea

School district staff who develop two or more of the symptoms while self-monitoring at home:

Symptom:

- Fever >100.4
- Chills

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Solution: Self isolate and contact your primary care provider for further guidance and a return to work note

Teachers with confirmed or suspected COVID-19:

Positive test result or Negative test result and teacher is probable COVID-19:

1. Isolate for 10 days from symptom onset
 - a. May return to work 24 hours after Resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; **AND**
 - b. Improvement in symptoms; **AND**
 - c. At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared

Negative test result AND improbable COVID-19:

1. Self-monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 as usual
 2. Wear proper PPE at all times
 3. Maintain social distancing when possible
- a. May return to work at least 24 hours after resolution of symptoms **AND** fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; **AND:**
 - b. Documentation of alternative diagnosis provided by PCP **OR** no close contact with COVID-19 positive case.

The following recommendations are specific to district staff exposed to other teachers, cohorts, or students with test confirmed COVID-19:

If proper PPE was worn at all times by teacher and teacher came into contact with COVID-19 positive individual:

1. No testing required
2. No quarantine is required
3. Self-monitor for symptoms and move the teacher and cohort to yellow protocol.

If proper PPE was NOT worn at all times by teacher and teacher came into contact with COVID-19 positive individual:

1. Move to Yellow protocol (No test is required)
2. No quarantine is required
3. Hypervigilance of symptom monitoring
4. Wear mask at all times
5. Maintain social distancing when possible
6. Hourly hygiene breaks
7. Move to the yellow protocol for the teacher's cohort.
8. Teachers are considered essential workers and are permitted to work if asymptomatic