

Quarantine is not a bad word. We often view this word through a negative perception. However, in the sense of COVID-19 in conjunction with in person learning, it is important to understand that quarantine procedures are implemented as an additional layer of protection for the population. The district has expanded its capacity to support remote learning, which makes quarantine practice possible without diminishing our students' ability to learn or feel supported in their growth even when they need to pull back from social interaction. The school's responsibility is NOT to prescribe a student be quarantined. Public health or a doctor may prescribe quarantine timelines for you and your family. If your student is identified through medical tests to be positive for COVID-19, the school will then expect all close contacts to be quarantined to mitigate the potential spread of the virus to other students and faculty members. Please review this [public health FAQ](#) for more information on quarantine practices.

Therefore, what impact could a positive case of COVID-19 mean for our schools? Please review the flow charts available [here](#) for school response to a positive case. The transition from in person instruction to remote learning could occur in many ways. For a generic response that would be applied should a positive case be identified review the following.

1. All protocol begins after Chaffee County Public Health notifies the district that a student has been positively identified with COVID-19. Until this information comes directly from Chaffee County Public Health, all information will be treated as rumor. (Please review [this document](#) that explains the difference between terms)
2. Then, the superintendent, or designee, will notify school nurses and school leadership.
3. Next, the superintendent, or designee, will follow the same protocol as with all known threats in our schools and place the necessary buildings under a "Shelter In Place" directive. Shelter in place means students have limited movement predominantly staying in their rooms.
4. Following this, the Superintendent, or designee, will immediately send out a community announcement via the school app to notify parents of the situation. This will be the primary means of communication between the school and families. To load the school app on Android devices click [here](#) and for iOS devices click [here](#).
 - Here is an example of the message script: "Do Not Come to the School Campus At This Time. Salida Schools has been notified by Chaffee County Public Health of a positive COVID-19 individual at _____ school. The school is "Sheltering In Place", while primary contacts are returning home for quarantine procedures. Reunification procedures to end the school day are being finalized. Await further instructions for reunification with your child today and information regarding school in the coming days. Do Not Come to the School Campus At This Time."
5. At this time, District Facilities will close for minimum of 24 hours to carefully address a positive case, specific buildings may experience longer physical closures to complete contact tracing. This will mean the following day will be designated as a remote learning day.