



Chaffee County Public Health

448 East 1st Street · Suite 137 · Salida, CO · Phone 719-539-4510 · Fax 719-539-7197

Dear Families,

There has been a positive case of COVID-19 within Longfellow Elementary School. Pausing with a remote learning day(s) allows Public Health and the School District to do thorough case investigation and contact tracing. This “pause” is something we will likely do each time there is a positive case.

In this specific case, after an in-depth contact investigation with Salida School District and Public Health, no students or staff have been determined to be a close contact of the positive case. The school will remain on remote learning through the rest of the week, with the plan to return to in-person instruction on Monday 11/16. There are many pending COVID tests that could affect our school population, and waiting until Monday ensures more consistency for students and staff.

Cases of COVID-19 are dramatically rising across the nation, state, and within Chaffee County. We believe in person learning is one of the safest places for kids to spend their days, and there is data to support that spread within elementary schools is minimal. However, every family’s actions outside of the school setting greatly impact the chance for us to remain in-person. Through our case investigations we have found that the majority of positive cases that lead to school closures occurred outside of the school setting. **Please reduce your social interactions.** We know this is hard, and especially hard for kids, but the only way for in-person instruction to continue is if our community changes our after-school and weekend activities.

Testing early is one of the best ways to prevent the spread of COVID. If you or your child becomes symptomatic, schedule a test with Public Health and **stay home (no school, childcare, jobs, after school activities, or social interactions) until you get your test results.** If necessary, seek medical care and testing for COVID-19, calling your doctor before you show up. Instructions about how to isolate are available here: <https://covid19.colorado.gov/how-to-isolate>

At this time, we only recommend testing for symptomatic people or asymptomatic close contacts. For those that are symptomatic, Public Health offers free COVID testing Monday-Friday with a simple mouth swab. To schedule, call 719-539-4510. The call volume is very high, if the voicemail box is full, please try again a bit later.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Chaffee County Public Health.

Sincerely,

Andrea Carlstrom
Public Health Director
Chaffee County Public Health