March 18, 2020

Families,

I can't tell you how much I appreciate your willingness to support the district, teachers, and our students as we navigate through these difficult times. I wish I had quick answers for everyone but that is unfortunately not possible.

I am aware of medical situations involving district students and/or staff. I have been in touch with families involved and have also shared this information with Park County Public Health. I look to them for guidance and direction as far as making decisions for the district. According to Park County Public Health and families involved, there are suspected cases but no confirmed cases through testing. That is simply due to the fact that tests are in short supply and medical facilities are not testing unless patients are in critical condition and need to be hospitalized. Our families are following the directions from medical facilities and that is the best way to keep the virus from spreading. Below you will find direct communication from Park County Public Health with the latest information on the criteria for testing and what to do if you are experiencing symptoms.

I do want to update everyone on what is going on in the district facilities. Park County Schools have been locked down and we have enlisted a professional, certified cleaning company to conduct a thorough disinfecting of the entire facility. We will keep the facilities locked down until we know it is safe to resume school.

Thank you again for your patience and your understanding of why we need to make the decisions we make. Please know I am consulting with state-level departments daily as we move along. After Thursday, we will officially be on Spring Break so there will be no educational expectations for students and teachers will be off work! I will be in touch with you before the end of Spring Break so you will know what to expect when the break is over.

Cindy Bear

Park County Public Health continues to provide current information on our website and Facebook pages. Park County Public Health is working with state and regional officials to closely track and monitor the situation and react as the situation changes. Please go to the COVID-19 page at www.parkco.us for reliable and updated information. Because of the limited availability of testing statewide, there may be individuals who are sick, have not been tested and are isolating at home.

With a shortage in testing availability around the state, Park County Public Health, along with with CDPHE, is recommending that people that have COVID-19 symptoms self-isolate and their close contacts self-quarantine, according to the guidance below. They do not need to have a test to take these steps. Please see the current testing criteria below.

Please follow this guidance:
Isolation and quarantine help protect the public by preventing exposure to people who are sick or have been exposed to people who are sick. This can include people who have tested positive for COVID-19, as well as people who have not been tested but have the symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough and shortness of breath). Generally, as long as the site is suitable, a person's residence is the preferred setting for quarantine and isolation, according to the CDC.

The difference between isolation and quarantine

ISOLATION

- Separates sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick.
- It is for people who are already sick.
- It is a routine procedure in hospitals and health care facilities.
- Can be voluntary, but public health agencies have the legal authority to issue isolation orders to people who are sick.
- If you have tested positive for COVID-19 **OR** if you develop fever, cough, and shortness of breath, you should be in isolation (stay away from others) until:
  - You have had no fever for at least 72 hours (that is three full days of no fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers)
    - **AND**
  - other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved)
    - **AND**
  - At least **7 days** have passed since your symptoms first appeared
  - CDC: What to do if you are in isolation: cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html
- Health care workers may have to isolate for longer and should do what they are told by the health care facility they work for.

QUARANTINE

- Separates people and restricts their movement if they were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick. This could include exposure to a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 or a person with the symptoms of COVID-19.

- It is for people who are not sick, but who may have been exposed (in close contact with someone) who is sick. This could include members of your household, co-workers, or others you spend a great deal of time with (and are within six feet of for 10 minutes or more).
- It can be voluntary, but public health has the legal authority to issue quarantine orders to people who were exposed to a contagious disease.
- Quarantined people:
  ○ Stay at home or in another location **for 14 days** so they don't spread the disease to healthy people.
  ○ Can seek medical treatment from a health care provider. In the case of COVID-19, they should **CALL** a provider or clinic first to get instructions **BEFORE** going to a health care office, hospital, or urgent care. If they have a medical emergency, they should tell the 911 dispatcher they are under quarantine for COVID-19.

TESTING CRITERIA

Assessment of Patients for 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Testing

Only patients meeting the following criteria will be tested for COVID-19. Asymptomatic cases will not be tested.

Criteria	Risk Factors		Clinical Features
1.	Any person, including health care workers, who have had close contact with a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 patient within 14 days of symptom onset	AND	Fever or signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g. cough or shortness of breath)
2.	Any person with a history of travel to areas with ongoing community transmission1 within 14 days of symptom onset	AND	Fever or signs/symptoms of a lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath) without an alternative explanatory diagnosis (e.g., influenza)
3.	Any person who is hospitalized	AND	Fever or signs/symptoms of a lower respiratory illness without an alternative explanatory diagnosis (e.g., influenza)
4.	Any person who lives in a residential facility such as a nursing home	AND	Fever or signs/symptoms of a lower respiratory illness without an alternative explanatory diagnosis (e.g., influenza)

5.	Any healthcare worker, clinical laboratory worker, or first responder who has a new onset of symptoms within 14 days of having direct contact with patients with signs/symptoms of respiratory illness or their clinical specimens	AND	Fever or signs/symptoms of a lower respiratory illness without an alternative explanatory diagnosis (e.g., influenza)
6.	Any person who is at risk of severe illness due to COVID-19 including older adults (age ≥ 65 years) and individuals with chronic medical conditions and/or an immunocompromised state that may put them at higher risk for poor outcomes (e.g., diabetes, heart disease, receiving immunosuppressive medications, chronic lung disease, chronic kidney disease)	AND	Fever or signs/symptoms of a lower respiratory illness without an alternative explanatory diagnosis (e.g., influenza)
7.	Outbreaks or clusters of respiratory illness - any person who is a member of a group with multiple symptomatic individuals that is being investigated by public health officials	AND	Fever or signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g. cough or shortness of breath)