Jefferson County Health Department

Public Health Office - 214 South Main Street

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November 12, 2020

To the Families of Boulder Elementary School Students,

At this time, it is believed that there is a high potential for school-wide exposure to COVID-19. Because of this we ask that all students are monitored closely for signs and symptoms of this illness. Even mild symptoms, such as a sore throat or runny nose, can be symptoms of COVID-19. Other symptoms can include fatigue, headache, cough, body aches, upset stomach, diarrhea and loss of smell or taste. More severe symptoms can include fever, shortness of breath and difficulty breathing. Please note, individuals can be asymptomatic carriers, which means they may never develop symptoms but can be spreading the illness. We encourage monitoring your entire household for symptoms.

Actions you can take to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our community:

* Please act with caution and prudence and stay home when able. Avoid gatherings, especially indoor gatherings, and activities that do not allow for physical distancing.
* If a student or anyone in the family develops symptoms of COVID-19, we ask that they self-quarantine and test as soon as possible.
* Remain in quarantine until test results are known.

Daily actions you can take to help reduce the risk of potential spread of illness in your household:

* Encourage frequent hand washing and avoiding touching the face.
* Regularly clean frequently touched surfaces in the home such as light switches, doorknobs, facets, counter tops, bathroom fixtures and electronics.
* Avoid sharing personal items.
* Maintain as much physical distancing as possible with ill household members or wear a mask when in close contact.

This is easier said than done, however every little thing you can do can be beneficial. We are aware that each family situation is unique and having children participating in distance learning can be very challenging. We appreciate your efforts and sacrifice.

Because of the measures that have been enacted at the school, such as mask wearing and distancing when able, we are hopeful that the spread of illness in the school will have been minimal. Public Health is working to help reduce the spread of this illness by providing the most up-to-date guidance we have. Our goal is to reopen the school to in-person learning as soon as possible and to keep it open. This is not possible without the help of each of you as students and families within the school community.

Please notify Jefferson County Health Department if your student or household member has developed symptoms of COVID-19. The health department will not be able to call each parent personally, if you have questions or concerns, or need to report potential symptoms, please call Erin Ritchie, Jefferson County School Nurse, at 406-437-1152.

Together, we can make this work. Thank you for promoting a healthy community!

Stay well,

Erin Ritchie, RN, County School Nurse Pam Hanna, RN, Public Health Supervisor