

# DOLORES SCHOOL DISTRICT RE~4A

Montezuma County  
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March 11, 2020

Parents, Staff, and Community Members:

Late this afternoon, Governor Polis held a press conference in which he shared new information related to COVID-19 that we expect to see in an official executive order. He shared the guidelines below related to when schools should close due to COVID-19 infection in students:

- If one student or staff member at a school tests positive for COVID-19, it is recommended that the school close for 72 hours to clean and disinfect it.
- If two students or staff members test positive, the school should close for an additional 72 hours (144 hours total).
- If a school has three or more students or staff members test positive, the recommendation is that the school close for 14 days.

It is our understanding that these guidelines only apply to a student or staff member testing positive for COVID-19, and not a student's parent or any other family member of the student or staff member. Dolores School District intends to follow these guidelines immediately. In light of spring break and imminent travel by students and families, we will monitor the situation carefully while students are gone and continue to provide updates.

The Governor's Office and State Health Department has announced that the state has identified "presumed positive" cases of COVID in Colorado and the Governor's Office has announced enhanced state efforts to prevent further spread of COVID. At this time, we are not aware of any presumed positive cases in our area. However, our safety and health team are working closely with the county, city, and health department and we have updated our emergency plans to include the guidance from the health department. We will continue to update the plan, if necessary, based on any additional guidance we receive from the health department.

The District continues to take this health threat very seriously. Our current actions that we are focusing on between now and spring break include:

**Deep sanitization and cleaning** – District custodial staff are working nightly to keep the building disinfected. On Friday, the custodial staff will do a very deep clean and disinfecting of all facilities. In addition, the maintenance staff will change all air filters in the buildings.

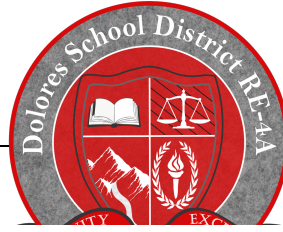
**Educating students and staff on how to prevent the spread of colds and flus** – Our teachers have been providing educational materials to all our students reminding them to wash their hands regularly, cover their mouths if they cough, etc. We will be hanging more posters in our schools reminding students to do these things.

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Elisabeth A. Richard, Superintendent

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**Suspending all out of state school-related travel for staff and students** – The superintendent has suspended all out of state school-related travel for staff and students until further notice as a precaution. If your child was scheduled for an out-of-state trip, your school will be in touch with more information about rescheduling these trips.

**Sending students and staff who are feeling sick home** – The school nurse will continue to screen students with health concerns at school and may ask parents to pick up sick students. The nurses may also ask students to wear a mask, while they are waiting for their parents to pick them up, if the nurse believes a student may have the flu (including regular flu or COVID).

**Website Updates** – A section has been set up on our website where parents, staff, and community members can access updates from the district and link to resources from the health department. Parents and community members can access this webpage by clicking on the link:

**Temporary Emergency Rule by Colorado Governor: Paid Sick Leave for Certain Employees.**

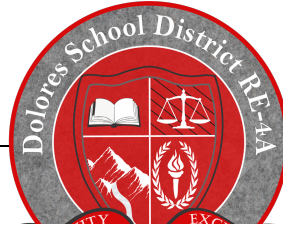
*3.1 Any employer engaged in the field of leisure and hospitality, food services, child care, education at all levels (including related services, including but not limited to cafeterias and transportation to, from, and on campuses), home health care (working with elderly, disabled, ill, or otherwise high-risk individuals), operating a nursing home, or operating a community living facility shall provide up to four days of paid sick leave for an employee (A) with flu-like symptoms and (B) who is being tested for COVID-19. The paid sick leave ends if an employee receives a negative COVID-19 test result.*

The above temporary emergency rule does not apply in cases where the employee already has paid sick leave. You can read the press release and complete contents of the emergency rules by clicking [here](#).

***We are also asking that parents do not send your child to school if they may be sick.*** Keeping your sick child home will be a great benefit for the health and wellness of all students and staff. We are also asking that staff stay home if they are sick. We may be asking a few additional questions for students or staff calling in sick as well to help us understand the presence of the flu in our schools and community. Please read the link on "[How Sick is Too Sick](#)".

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As you know, all of this is a quickly evolving situation and the District will continue to share accurate and timely information as we receive it. We are posting key resources and information on our website that you can view by clicking [here](#).

The district will share any updates or relevant information with parents and the community as it becomes available. At this time, we are monitoring the situation but are not aware of any known Corona virus (COVID) cases in or our area.

Please visit the Colorado Department of Health and Environment for more information and please reach out to the Superintendent's Office with any questions or concerns.