

DOLORES SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-4A

Montezuma County
100 North 6th Street
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Dolores, Colorado 81323



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October 2, 2021

Hi Elementary Parents,

This is follow-up information regarding the district announcement yesterday that our school will be **closing campus and going to four days of online learning the week of Oct. 4-7**. This very difficult decision was made after much thought and discussion due to the high number of COVID cases and other illnesses in our school district. Please call **Jennifer Gaddis, RN, at 970-882-4688** if there are questions about symptoms, testing, and/or mandatory quarantine times. We hope that having these 4 days away from the building will give students, staff members, and families time to heal; provide our maintenance team time to completely and thoroughly disinfect our buildings; and provide distance to prevent further spread of the illnesses we've experienced recently.

Our ability to serve our Little Bears was definitely compromised a bit last week with the number of ill staff members out and lack of Substitutes, but I'm grateful that we were able to stay open. The camaraderie, love, and joyfulness in this building is truly spectacular, and I am so grateful for our staff members and their work ethic that exceeds all my expectations. Thanks to everyone, including our students and parent volunteers, too! I truly hope that the time away next week gives everyone time to heal and recoup, so that we can return healthy and strong on October 11th.

Our **Cafeteria team will still be providing free lunches next week for all students**. You can pick them up in front of the High School Library, Monday through Thursday, from 11 AM to 12 PM. These simple lunches will be shelf stable; so, if you prefer, you may pick up your student's lunches for the **entire week in one stop**. If you need help with getting lunches, please let me know, and we will try to assist you.

We are currently working on **rescheduling our elementary Picture Day**, and we will send out that new date soon. Any scheduled **parent meetings will be offered virtually or rescheduled**. Unfortunately, **Friday Funday on Oct. 8th is also cancelled**, and Ms. Werner will email scheduled participants. Our teachers already have Google Classrooms set up for online learning, and **teachers will be contacting students Monday afternoon** to answer any questions and give assignments for the week. Our staff members will work together Monday morning to prepare student supplies to be sent home including Chromebooks and any paper assignments. The students' **supplies will be ready to pick up between 1:00 and 4:00 pm Monday and available between 8-4 on Tuesday**. Our office staff will continue to work in order to answer any questions and assist with supplies and/or lunches.

As always, please reach out anytime with questions and concerns. We try to answer all emails and return phone calls within 24 hours. Our **front Office is open between 8-4, Monday-Thursday, at 970-882-4688**. Please see the next page for more information about Covid-19 if needed, and I will continue to do my best to keep you well informed. Please look for our next Galloping Goose Newsletter for further school information and for dates of upcoming events. Apologies for the Newsletter delay, but we need to make some changes due to these circumstances.

With Much Care and Gratitude,
Lurleen McCormick
Dolores Elementary School Principal

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Information about COVID from the Colorado Department of Public Health:

If you're fully vaccinated, you don't need to quarantine after being exposed to someone with COVID-19. However, we recommend that you **get a COVID-19 test three to five days after exposure and wear a mask in public for 14 days after exposure** or until you have a negative test result. These precautions will help protect the people around you in the rare case of a breakthrough infection. If you develop any symptoms of COVID-19 in the 14 days after exposure, you should get tested, even if you have a previous negative test.

What is quarantining?

- Quarantining prevents the ongoing spread of the virus to other people by individuals who know they have been exposed or are likely to have been exposed, but do not yet know if they have been infected. It's a precaution and an effective tool to prevent viral spread since people infected with COVID-19 can be contagious even without having symptoms.
- Quarantining can be voluntary, and people should self-quarantine if they have a known exposure and do not know whether they have been infected. Colorado also has the legal authority to issue quarantine orders to people who were exposed to a contagious disease. This will not occur in most cases and is reserved for circumstances where it is difficult for people to voluntarily quarantine.

COVID-like symptoms:

Loss of taste or smell, fever (100.4° F or higher), chills, new or worsening cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, headache, sore throat, muscle or body aches, congestion or runny nose, fatigue, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea. A person is assumed to be contagious two days before they start having symptoms and for 10 days after symptoms start. In children too young or unable to reliably report their symptoms, caregivers and teachers should monitor for symptoms and other age-appropriate signs of disease, including decreased appetite or activity. All symptomatic individuals should seek clinical evaluation, including testing, as soon as possible after symptoms develop.

For a complete update and recommendations, please visit:

<https://covid19.colorado.gov/practical-guide-for-operationalizing-cdc-school-guidance>