Dear Parent/Guardian,

A student or staff member at Holmes has been diagnosed with COVID-19. Each case of COVID-19 is reviewed by El Paso Public Health and District 11. As part of this public health investigation:

         The person diagnosed is being kept home from school until they are no longer infectious.

         The person's mask use, social distancing, and activities while infectious were assessed.

         The people who were close contacts of the person with the probable COVID-19 case are instructed to stay home from school for 7-10 days after the exposure. This is called quarantine.

The parents of all students known to have close contact with people with COVID-19 have been notified and instructed to keep their children home. Staff who were in close contact have also been instructed to quarantine.

We do **not** believe your child was in close contact with anyone with COVID-19. Your child does not need to stay home and observe quarantine or isolation precautions, but you should regularly monitor your child for symptoms of COVID-19.

If your child develops [symptoms](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html) consistent with COVID-19:

* Follow [these isolation instructions](https://covid19.colorado.gov/how-to-isolate).
* Have your child [tested](https://search.211colorado.org/search?terms=COVID-19%20Testing&page=1&location=Colorado&service_area=colorado).
* Keep your child home from school and avoid other activities around other people.
* Notify the school.
* Seek medical care and testing for COVID-19, calling your doctor before you show up.

Public Health does not recommend COVID-19 testing for your child. A negative test result does not mean that your child will not develop symptoms or become sick after the test. A negative test result means that your child did not have COVID-19 detected at the time of testing. Medical insurance may not cover the cost of testing for people without symptoms.

Under the [Healthy Families and Workplaces Act (“HFWA”)](https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdle/interpretive-notice-formal-opinions-infos), an employer must provide paid leave to an employee under certain conditions, including taking care of someone else due to COVID-19 precautions, including a child whose school, place of care, or childcare is closed or unavailable. [link: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdle/interpretive-notice-formal-opinions-infos>]

If you have further questions, please contact Holmes or your local public health agency.