

Ruidoso Municipal Schools

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9.15.2021

Ruidoso Middle School is working with the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) and New Mexico's Department of Health (NMDOH) because a staff member or student who attend our school has tested positive for COVID-19.

This letter is to inform you that you are **NOT A CLOSE CONTACT** and any staff or student that was a close contact has been notified. However, RMSD does want staff to be aware of the necessary steps taken to protect staff and students from COVID 19. **Areas of the school (including buses) in which the COVID-19 positive individual spent time have been cleaned and disinfected multiple times.**

This letter is to inform you about the next steps necessary to protect your child and our community from COVID-19. Per guidance from both NMPED and NMDOH, we are required to investigate to see who had "close contact" with the staff member or student who tested positive for COVID-19. A "close contact" is defined as being closer than six feet for a cumulative total of fifteen minutes or more over a 24-hour period to a person who is positive for COVID-19. All students and staff who were in close contact with the infected individual are encouraged to be tested 5 days after close contact exposure to the positive COVID-19 individual. Last contact was made on 9/3/2021, RMS was notified of the positive test result on 9/15/2021. Staff and students who were close contacts must self-quarantine at home for 10 days, regardless of test result.

In the meantime, if you or your child begin to develop symptoms of COVID-19, which are fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of smell or taste, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>), please call your healthcare provider or the COVID-19 Hotline at 1-855-600-3453.

It is important that you call ahead to your healthcare provider before presenting to the physician's office, clinic, urgent care or emergency room so that they can be prepared for your arrival. They may also refer you to a testing clinic.

Areas of the school (including buses) in which the COVID-19 positive individual spent time will be cleaned and disinfected and those who were close contacts of the positive case will be notified.

You may call Principal Cecily Hooker 575-630-7801, or NMDOH at (505) 827-0006, if you have questions. Thank you for your support in these efforts.

Sincerely,

G.R. Bickert

Dr. George Bickert, Superintendent