

The Weekly Warrior

September 25, 2020

RMSD Update

Dr. Bickert
Superintendent

It wasn't "if" we would experience a positive Covid-19 test within Warrior Nation, but "when". The "when" happened to be this week, with confirmation arriving Wednesday afternoon. We systematically reviewed and followed all of the required protocols from the New Mexico Department of Health, Environmental Department, and Public Education Department. We continue to work with state officials to assure that all procedures and protocols are followed.

What can be shared is that a District employee, housed at Ruidoso Middle School, but who performs multiple roles in the District tested positive for Covid-19. All individuals who were identified as "close contacts" within the 48 hour contact-window, have received direct notification, are in quarantine protocol and been provided further information. I wish continued health and safety for everyone connected with this exposure.

As with the previous secondary contact situations that our District has experienced, everyone involved worked positively and professionally in assuring that contact tracing and communication protocols were followed. This situation will be the basis for this week's "what we know" and "what we don't know" columns.

Thank you to everyone in Warrior Nation for all you do for our District and "Don't Stop Believin"! *Dr. B.*

UPCOMING

Pre-K – 5th grade students continue Blue/Gold in-person learning!

6th - 12th grade students continue remote learning.

Monday, October 12th, Indigenous People's Day – District Holiday

Tuesday, October 13th, 6th – 12th grade students tentatively scheduled to return to Blue/Gold in-person learning!

SHOUT OUTS

Thank you to all staff members who worked on contact tracing and communication protocols!

What We Know

Prevention: The four most effective behaviors to prevent the spread of Covid-19 are: 1) Wear a mask at all times; 2) Maintain physical distance (6 feet); 3) Wash your hands often; and 4) Clean and sanitize high-touch surfaces.

A "Close Contact": is defined as: 1) a person who came within six (6) feet of the positive individual (even while wearing a mask) for longer than three (3) minutes; 2) all students and staff who were in the same classroom with the individual; and 3) all students who were on the same bus as the individual.

Contact Tracing: is defined as the process of reaching out to "close contacts" in order to ensure that they take the necessary precautions and receive any needed testing. Contact tracing is also the most effective way to prevent a positive case from becoming mass cases.

Retracing Your Steps: In responding to this first positive case, we found that it is and will be extremely helpful to remember where you have been and who you have been in contact with. This helps with mandatory reporting requirements and the sharing of information.



What We Don't Know

Outcomes: Even though we have followed protocol and procedure, we cannot know with certainty how effective our responses will be towards containment.