



# EAST HELENA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School District No. 9

P.O. Box 1280 \* East Helena, MT. 59635

Superintendent/ Administration Office (406) 227-7700

Eastgate Elementary School (406) 227-7770 \* Prickly Pear Elementary (406) 227-7720

Radley Elementary School (406) 227-7710 \* East Valley Middle School (406) 227-7740

East Helena High School (406) 227-7730

*"Success For All"*



September 14, 2020

On September 13, 2020, the East Helena School District was notified that a student had tested positive for COVID-19. The positive test was confirmed today. Thankfully this case was isolated to a cohort, or small group. Students and staff identified as close contacts have been notified and isolated until the extent of the illness has been determined. According to the Lewis and Clark County Health Department, the District's policies of social distancing and wearing masks was instrumental in limiting the exposure to staff and students. Since the first symptoms, the parents have held the child out of school and were, and continue to be, in contact with the school. At this time the district is having students and staff from the affected classroom stay home while we continue to monitor the health of the other identified close contacts. This procedure of asking parents whose children are exhibiting symptoms of an illness to remain at home and seek medical assistance is our best chance to contain this disease. The cooperation of these parents has been helpful to the school nurses and staff to provide the very best care in this situation.

Please note that transmission is unlikely provided there was not contact for more than 15 minutes in close proximity to an active case of COVID -19. If any staff or students were at risk of exposure, the Lewis and Clark County Health Department and our school nurses would already have been in contact with those persons to determine a safe and appropriate course of action. It is still recommended that any person who feels sick or ill, seek out their medical provider for specific instructions and stay home until all fever and symptoms have passed for at least 24 hours. The School District is in contact with the Health Department and reviewing the Centers for Disease Control guidance to complete cleaning the affected parts of the school and other related facilities. The District School nurses and School officials continue to monitor the situation and will provide further information as appropriate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ron Whitmoyer".

Ron Whitmoyer,  
East Helena Superintendent