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**To Families, Guardians and Staff of Bernalillo high School:**

Bernalillo Public Schools is working with the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) and New Mexico's Department of Health (NMDOH) because an employee or a child at Bernalillo High School has tested positive for COVID-19. **The individual has not been in the school building recently therefore; there has not been close contact exposure to anyone on campus.**

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 more than three minutes to a person who is positive for COVID-19, and all staff and students who were in the same classroom as the infected individual. According to NMPED and NMDOH, all staff who were in "close contact" with the infected individual must be tested seven to 10 days after close contact exposure to the positive COVID-19 individual. All students who were close contacts are strongly encouraged to be tested. Both staff and student close contacts must self-quarantine at home for 14 days, regardless of the test result.

**All those deemed to be a "Close Contact" or those who were in the same classroom as the infected individual will be notified via telephone of their status and provided with instructions. If you do not receive a phone call, you have not been deemed a close contact.**

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, please call the COVID-19 Hotline at 1-855-600-3453, then press 8. Should you experience symptoms of COVID-19, it is important that you call the New Mexico Department of Health facility in Sandoval County to schedule an appointment for testing at (505) 867-2291. In addition, we ask that you notify your child's school. It is important that you call ahead to your healthcare provider before visiting 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.

Your household members do not need to quarantine unless your child tests positive for COVID-19 or your household members are identified as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 individual.

Keith Cowan,

Superintendent