

**Date:** September 23, 2020

**To:** BSD-44 Familes

**From:** Matt Kelley, Health Officer, Gallatin City-County Health Department

**Subject:** COVID-19 case

Dear families:

Gallatin-City County Health Department and Belgrade School Distrct are sending this letter to inform you of a COVID-19 case in your child's school district. Any students or staff who were identified as a close contacts have been contacted. If you are receiving this letter, your child has **not** been identified as a close contact. Currently, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) defines a close contact as interactions within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes. This criteria are informed by the CDC's most current understanding of COVID-19 and how we can prevent the virus from spreading to others.

COVID-19 can be spread for up to 48 hours before somebody has symptoms and children tend to have more mild symptoms that may not be identified. The risk of spread in an exposed group necessitated the quarantine of close contacts. If your child are not a member of the affected group there is no exposure and it is appropriate for them to continue normal activities at this time.

Everyone should continue to do the following:

- Practice good hand hygiene and wash hands with soap and water frequently throughout the day and definitely before eating, after going to the bathroom and after being in public.
- Practice social distancing in groups of any size outside the immediate household. This means staying 6 feet apart from others as much as practical and limiting face-to-face contact with others outside of your household. Wear a face covering when social distancing is not possible.
- Do not touch your face and sneeze or cough into a tissue or the inside of their elbow.
- At home, continue to disinfect high-touch surfaces at least once a day or more frequently if possible.
- Monitor your child's symptoms and take note and seek medical advice from your health care provider if they become sick. Do not send your child to school is they are sick.

**COVID-19 symptoms to watch for include: Fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting and/or diarrhea.**



We realize this information may be unsettling. We have included a few resources below that can help answer questions about COVID-19 and links to where you can find accurate up-to-date information. If we can be of further assistance please call our call center at 548-0123 or email the call center at [callcenter@readygallatin.com](mailto:callcenter@readygallatin.com). We are here to support you and all the families at Belgrade School District and we encourage you to reach out with your questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Matt Kelley, MPH  
Health Officer  
Gallatin City-County Health Department

Resources:

Healthy Gallatin: <https://www.healthygallatin.org/coronavirus-covid-19/>

CDC Guidance: [How to Clean and Disinfect](#)

