

Dallas Cottam, RN
MVHS Nurse
P.O. Box 130
Mountain View, WY 82939

MOUNTAIN VIEW HIGH SCHOOL

In light of recent positive Covid cases within the school and also recognizing that many people may be positive who are not being tested, we would like to send this general notice to all parents of students at UCSD#4.

The ability to track down close contacts has become very difficult in some of these situations. We want to be diligent in trying to keep transmission out of, or minimize transmission within the school but there are multiple barriers to this. To name only a few:

1. Young people tend to have mild or no symptoms so they are likely to be at school and unknowingly expose others.
2. Covid symptoms mimic other common illnesses or conditions. Such as, common cold, asthma symptoms, allergies, croup, strep, gastroenteritis and others. Often parents don't consider keeping students home or having them tested when they may have an alternative explanation for their student's symptoms.
3. Positive cases who are identified have often been in multiple locations and around multiple people throughout their contagious period within the school and community. We can only easily identify students through seating charts but this will not necessarily include exposures in the lunchroom, specials, recess, hallways, busses, after school activities and friendship groups outside of the school. These locations are very difficult to trace accurately and would potentially result in sweeping quarantines of large groups of students multiple times throughout the school year. Which, for many reasons, we would like to avoid.
4. The majority of students are no longer wearing masks within the school, which proved to greatly reduce transmission and exposures during the last school year.

Due to these situations, we need to assume that all students could potentially be considered contacts of a positive covid case within the school at any given time. We want to be transparent with our parents and allow them to plan out of school activities and gatherings accordingly and safely. You may want to take precautions if your student is or may be around anyone outside of school who is vulnerable or otherwise concerned about the transmission of Covid.

We would like to continue to encourage mask use, testing when symptomatic to verify the source of symptoms, and, if not tested, keeping students home when they are having any symptoms that could potentially be Covid. We have had multiple cases in which a student or

employee thought they just had allergies, an asthma flare up, a cold, or other and later tested positive, which reinforces the value of getting tested to rule out Covid.

While these are challenging times, we want to communicate with school stakeholders and students about some of their responsibilities when it comes to keeping students at home or getting them tested for COVID. Even within a school, contact tracing presents unique challenges that we all need to face and we need to work together to minimize exposure to students and have students stay home when they are ill.

Thank you,
Nurse Chris and Nurse Dallas