

September 2, 2020

Dear Heritage High School Students, Staff, and Families:

Yesterday afternoon we informed you that a Heritage student had tested positive for COVID-19. Today, a staff member at Heritage High School has tested positive for COVID-19. (This case is unrelated to the positive case we communicated to you yesterday.) Tri-County Health has determined that about 40 additional students and 20 additional staff members were “close contacts” and need to quarantine for 14 days. **They have been notified by Tri-County Health that they need to quarantine and the steps they should take.**

Tri-County Health does not consider these two separate positive cases of COVID-19 at Heritage to be an outbreak. However, because there are now a total of 27 staff members - about one third of the entire Heritage High School staff - who must quarantine for 14 days, we do not have enough staff in the school to provide adequate supervision and safety for our students.

Based on the impact of these quarantines on our school community, we felt it was necessary to shift from the current hybrid/blended learning model to a temporary, all online, synchronous remote learning model beginning this Friday, September 4, through September 11 in order to provide all students with the best learning environment.

We all want what is best for our children academically, physically, emotionally and socially. With that goal in mind, we have adjusted our daily schedule and calendar to provide all of our students fully synchronous, online learning for the next week and a half. Online Synchronous Calendar. Students will have a non-contact day on Thursday, September 3, 2020 for teacher planning. This means all students will attend from home virtually starting on Friday, September 4, 2020. Students will attend all scheduled classes, including Advisory (M, T, Th and F), every day online at their normally scheduled times. Students and staff will be expected to attend and participate in their classes for the entire scheduled class period. Students will not need to be online during scheduled off periods or their designated lunch periods (either lunch A or B). Attendance and assignments will be required as if this were in-person learning.

It's important to remember that if you have NOT received a communication from Tri-County Health about quarantining, your student was NOT in close contact with someone who tested positive and your student is NOT quarantined. We ask that all Heritage students and staff continue to monitor daily for COVID-19 symptoms. If symptoms develop:

- Notify the school.
- Follow these isolation instructions.
- Have your child tested.
- Continue to keep your child home from school and avoid other activities around other people.
- Seek medical care and testing for COVID-19, calling your doctor before you arrive.

Students and staff members who are NOT quarantined may continue to participate in athletics and activities as scheduled.

LPS Nutrition Services will continue to provide meals during this two-week period. Free meals can be picked up on Thursday, September 3, in the parent drop off loop for both breakfast and lunch from 1p.m.-2:30p.m. Families can also pick up 4 days' worth of free meals on Friday, September 4, and

Tuesday, September 8, from 1p.m. -2:40 p.m. in the same location. As a result of federal funding, all meals will be FREE for ALL students through December 2020 or until available funding runs out. All students and families are welcome to pick up meals at no charge.

As we communicated yesterday, legally we cannot share the names of those who test positive; it's also important that we respect and maintain the privacy of our students, staff and families. Rest assured that Tri-County Health and staff at Heritage High School are following up with those who need to be informed. Keeping all of our students, staff, and families safe is our highest priority.

District Operations and Maintenance staff are following all Tri-County Health protocols to complete additional deep cleaning procedures. HVAC filters will be removed and replaced to ensure that outside air is circulating through the affected areas.

We truly believe our students and the community did everything right and took every possible precaution to maintain in-person learning opportunities. It is a challenging task to keep students and staff safe and healthy even in the best of times, but it is truly an immense task during these times of pandemic.

From the onset of these challenging times, we knew we all would need to be adaptable, flexible and ready to transition to new ways of teaching and learning at a moment's notice. I know our teachers have worked hard to learn necessary skills and adapt their teaching to provide their students a world class educational experience both in the classroom and virtually. We certainly hope this is a temporary obstacle to our students' ability to learn in person because we know that socialization and personal relationships make an enormous difference in helping our students find success.

We will return to the in-person/ hybrid and remote schedule on Monday, September 14, 2020. At that time we will return to the calendar originally provided to students and families. Click this link to view the [original calendar](#). September 14th will be an odd period day, and students with the last name A-K will be in-person; students with the last name L-Z will be remote. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

If you have further questions about COVID, please contact Abby Figat at the Tri-County Health Department, at 303-482-1477 (day-time) or 720-200-1486 (after-hours). You can also contact the LPS Director of Student Support Services, Melissa Cooper, 303-347-3472, or the school nurse consultant, Janet Deutsch, 720-281-7635. Additional resources are available on the Tri-County Health Department website: <https://www.tchd.org/>.

Sincerely,

Stacey Riendeau
Principal, Heritage High School

Melissa Cooper
Director of Student Support Services, Littleton Public Schools