

BRITTON-HECLA SCHOOL DISTRICT 45-4

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Britton, South Dakota 57430-0190

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Superintendent Steve Benson, HS Principal Carrie James, Elementary Principal Kyla Richter, Business Manager Kayla Hastings

The mission of the Britton-Hecla School District is to promote a positive, challenging and safe environment for every student.

Dear Parents or Guardian:

The South Dakota Department of Health (SD DOH) has confirmed that a staff member in our school has tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. **Upon investigating, we are not aware of any close contacts associated with this reported case;** however, we are still encouraging parents to be monitoring their child for symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 illness during the next 14 days.

The COVID-19 virus is spread from person-to-person, mainly through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Spread is more likely to occur when people are in close contact with one another (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes).

Symptoms include:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Loss of taste or smell
- Sore Throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea, Vomiting or Diarrhea

Recommendations if ever contacted by DOH:

- Answer the call, the SD-DOH will contact you to provide recommendations and guidance specific to your child's quarantine period and COVID-19.
- Be watchful for symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 illness that may appear in your child during the next 14 days.
- Keep your child at home. Quarantine separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick. Quarantine periods are 14 days from the last contact with the person who has COVID-19. The DOH will contact you to provide recommendations and guidance specific to your child's quarantine period and COVID-19.

Precautions to avoid illness:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Refrain from touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue
- Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects
- Individuals at higher risk for severe COVID-19 illness, such as older adults or people who have chronic medical conditions like heart, lung or kidney disease, should take actions to reduce your risk of exposure (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>)

For more information on COVID-19, visit <https://covid.sd.gov/>.

Thank you for your understanding,

Steve Benson
Superintendent



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