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**A Joint Statement from Bishop Unified School District & Inyo County Public Health  
October 23, 2020**

On the evening of October 21st, Inyo County Public Health (ICPH) notified Bishop Unified School District (BUSD) of a student who had tested positive for COVID-19. Families were then contacted between 10/21 - 10/22 regarding their direct or potential secondary exposure to COVID-19. Per BUSD and ICPH policy, a list of close contacts was provided to ICPH to notify students with direct exposure to quarantine. This list unfortunately didn't separate "a.m." students from "p.m." students, and so several families of p.m. students were called and told to quarantine their student. This was an error on BUSD's part and for that we deeply apologize. Families in this situation will be directly notified today if they were told on 10/22 to quarantine but in fact are not required to do so as their students have not had any direct exposure to COVID-19. We know how frustrating and challenging this experience has been for families and understand the responsibility we have to handle these situations as quickly and effectively as possible.

This situation has brought to light the immediate need for BUSD to have a better bus tracking system so we can identify which students are on which buses and which bus routes. This will make clear who any close contacts are and, just as importantly, aren't, in any given contact tracing situation. We are taking this seriously and today working on implementing a new and better system that we can put into place right away.

The close and ongoing collaboration between BUSD and ICPH has been pivotal to the quick response time and subsequent contact tracing involving positive COVID-19 cases. We will continue to work together in the best interest and safety of our community and thank you for your partnership in that effort.

Sincerely,

Katie Kolker  
BUSD Superintendent  
(760) 872 - 3690

Anna Scott  
HHS Deputy Director- Public Health and Prevention  
(760) 873 - 7868

## FAQs

### 1. What's the difference between being a "Close Contact" vs. a "Secondary Contact"?

Close contacts have had contact with a COVID-19 positive individual within 6 feet for 15 minutes or longer. Classmates, siblings, the teacher, bus driver, and fellow bus riders are all examples. Close contacts are contacted by Public Health and are placed under quarantine.

Siblings of close contacts are considered secondary contacts and are not thought to have had direct exposure. Other secondary contact examples include students who have the same teacher or bus driver as the COVID-positive student, but aren't in the same class or bus run/route.

**2. Do I have to quarantine if my child was identified as a close contact and is placed under quarantine?**

No, only close contacts are required to quarantine. Children in the household who were not directly quarantined by Public Health may continue to attend school if they are not sick. Parents and other household members who were not directly quarantined may continue to work. No one should go to work or school if they are sick.

**3. What should I do if my child is quarantined and starts to feel sick?**

If your child begins to experience symptoms, contact your child's health care provide or Inyo County Public Health at 760-873-7868.

## Symptoms of Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Know the symptoms of COVID-19, which can include the following:



**Symptoms can range from mild to severe illness, and appear 2-14 days after you are exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19.**

**Seek medical care immediately if someone has emergency warning signs of COVID-19.**

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- Bluish lips or face

This list is not all possible symptoms. Please call your healthcare provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you.



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus)