September 11, 2020

Dear Westminster Public Schools Families,

Westminster High School has received another confirmed case of COVID-19 affecting a cohort of 101 students and six staff members who were in contact with the individual in question earlier this week. It is the third case as WHS, but given the size of the building, it is not a surprise.

It is important to remember that just because a student or staff member is placed in quarantine; it does not mean they are likely to contract COVID-19. In fact, siblings of quarantined students are encouraged to attend school.

As in prior instances of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in WPS, our safety protocols are being followed to quarantine those individuals directly impacted.

Based on the guidance from the Tri-County Health Department, WHS could safely continue in-person learning for the vast majority of WHS students, but we also want to deliver the highest quality instruction possible. Because of the number of staff members who cannot be in the classroom during this quarantine, we have determined that the best option is for the entire school to transition to our remote learning platform until Tuesday, September 22.

We have been preparing for this possibility and feel this decision is in the best interests of students and staff. Westminster High School families are receiving detailed communications, but because we are such a close-knit community, we thought it was important to share this update with you.

**This safety step does not impact other WPS schools.**

Please know that we are following our biosecurity plan and are in continual communication with the Tri-County Health Department. We are making this decision proactively to maintain the integrity of our academic programming.

It is critically important that all members of our community pay attention to the 3W’s of WPS, especially with friends at social gatherings:

- Wear a mask
- Wash your hands
- Watch your distance
If we all work together in a responsible manner we can keep our schools open and continue educating our children in-person.

-Westminster Public Schools