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Empowering Colorado education leaders through advocacy, professional learning and networking to deliver on the promise of public education.

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## Important new COVID-19 information: school closure guidelines and paid employee sick leave

Dear CASE members,

Late this afternoon, Governor Polis held a press conference in which shared new information related to COVID-19 that we expect to see in an official executive order. He shared the below guidelines related to when schools should close due to COVID-19 infection in students:

- If one student or staff member at a school tests positive for COVID-19, it is recommended that the school close for 72 hours to clean and disinfect it.
- If two students or staff members test positive, the school should close for an additional 72 hours (144 hours total).
- If a school has three or more students or staff members test positive, the recommendation is that the school close for 14 days.

It is our understanding that these guidelines only apply to a student or staff member testing positive for COVID-19, and not a student's parent or any other family member of the student or staff member.

Also today, temporary emergency rules issued by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment went into effect. One aspect of the rules that CASE wants to bring to your attention is the following:

*Rule 3. Paid Sick Leave for Certain Employees.*

*3.1 Any employer engaged in the field of leisure and hospitality, food services, child care, education at all levels (including related services, including but not limited to cafeterias and transportation to, from, and on campuses), home health care (working with elderly, disabled, ill, or otherwise high-risk individuals), operating a nursing home, or operating a community living facility shall provide up to four days of paid sick leave for an employee (A) with flu-like symptoms and (B) who is being tested for COVID-19. The paid sick leave ends if an employee receives a negative COVID-19 test result.*

The above temporary emergency rule does not apply in cases where the employee already has paid sick leave. You can read the press release and complete contents of the emergency rules by clicking [here](#).

As you know, all of this is a quickly evolving situation and CASE will continue to share accurate and timely information as we receive it. We are posting key resources and information on our website, which we update daily, that you can view by clicking [here](#).

If you have any questions, please contact me at [lescarcega@co-case.org](mailto:lescarcega@co-case.org).

Sincerely,

Lisa Escárcega  
CASE Executive Director