

Second Castle Rock staff member contracts COVID-19

August 25, 2020



A second staff member at Castle Rock Charter School tested positive for COVID-19.

According to the Del Norte Unified School District, both cases were confirmed Aug. 21, but were unrelated.

“They are in two different segments of the school,” said Superintendent Jeff Harris in his weekly video presentation Monday, Aug. 24. “The two contacts may have come from two completely different areas.”

He said Del Norte County Health Department is conducting contact tracing and has reached out to several other staff members as part of the process.

Del Norte County Office of Education spokesman Michael Hawkins initially said Aug. 24 that the first infected staff member had not come in contact with any staff or students on campus or at any other school in the county. Hawkins said Castle Rock has an independent study program that is already all distance learning. However, its staff and students have already started a week ahead of the district’s Aug. 31 start date. As such,

Hawkins said the Castle Rock campus had more activity going on Aug. 21 as parents visited getting books and materials for their students.

He added the Castle Rock administration is identifying all the additional areas that need cleaning and disinfecting due to potential exposure.

“We’re also taking the opportunity to make staff more aware of processes of sanitary best practices to help curb the chances infection spreading further,” Hawkins added.

He noted extra scrutiny is being put on shared spaces, like bathrooms, and on shared materials like paper.

“One of things they’re doing at Castle Rock is making a larger effort to provide staff with separate and individual materials, like extra paper or supplies, to have access to their own supplies and not use as much shared materials as possible,” Hawkins said.

Hawkins could not say if infected staff members were teachers, as Federal FERPA and HIPAA legislation required to him to keep most of the information regarding this case confidential by law.

He did confirm both individuals had started isolation for at least 10 days and are being monitored by Del Norte County Public Health officials for contact tracing.

“As the coronavirus situation in our county and country continues to develop, we urge you to take necessary precautions to limit the spread of coronavirus in our community,” Hawkins said. “We wish the affected Castle Rock staff member a quick recovery.”

Hawkins added to learn more about DNCOE’s response procedures for COVID-19, go to [DNUSD.org](https://dnusd.org) or view their COVID-19 response flow chart directly at bit.ly/3hrrIU.

Additionally, Harris recommended parents also visit Del Norte County's COVID-19 Information Hub at www.covid19.dnco.org for more information.