



## Department of Public Health and Environment

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Grace Franklin, Public Health Director

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June 18, 2020

Attention San Miguel County Parents:

A 17 year-old male from the Telluride community began to experience COVID-19 related symptoms this past Saturday, June 13th, and he subsequently tested positive for positive for COVID-19.

Friday night, June 12th he attended a social gathering with nearly three-dozen teens in Telluride. In our best efforts to protect your children, your family and our community, we want to alert you to this potential exposure and advise next steps.

First, please check with your teen to see if they attended Friday night's gathering. If they were present, ask if they wore a face mask or maintained social distancing (at least 6 feet) the entire time.

If they answer yes, they are considered low-risk of having been infected. If they answer no, they may be considered at high-risk of infection if they were within close contact (less than 6 feet) with the infected individual -- or anyone else at the gathering who may have been unknowingly infected -- for longer than 15 minutes without a mask, per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Here's what we recommend if your child attended the gathering:

- a) If your child does NOT currently have any symptoms, call County Public Health at 970-728-4289 (or email [COVIDTesting@sanmiguelcounty.gov](mailto:COVIDTesting@sanmiguelcounty.gov)) for further guidance.
- b) If your child has ANY symptoms such as a cough, fever, diarrhea, and/or shortness of breath, keep them home and call your healthcare provider to arrange an evaluation and COVID-19 testing.
- c) Reel in your family's contact with others. It is not necessary to engage in a full quarantine (unless one of you is symptomatic), however, it is essential that you maintain vigilance to best practices including minimizing unnecessary contact with others for the next ten days.

Healthy teens are considered a low risk population for complications due to COVID-19. However, if you have members of your household who are considered at high risk for complications (the elderly, individuals with heart or lung disease, diabetes, or immunocompromised), extra precautions should be taken to minimize contact with your teen if he was at the gathering.

This is not a time to panic, but rather to take clinically-indicated steps to help keep this contained as much as possible.

We also need to have direct, age-appropriate conversations with all of our children about the critical importance of maintaining social distancing, wearing face masks, and limiting social gatherings to no more than ten people.

We realize that teenagers are social beings and this pandemic is cramping their style. But we know we must collectively change our behaviours, to change the trajectory of this pandemic.

We are all in this together, and we are relying on you as parents, to help keep your children, and our community safe.

Please feel free to forward this message to other parents as appropriate, and we thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

Grace Franklin  
San Miguel County Public Health Director

Dr. Sharon Grundy  
San Miguel County Medical Officer