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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kari Yeagy, District Communications Hallsville R-IV School District 421 E. Highway 124 Hallsville, MO 65255 (573) 696-5512 ext 2220 kyeagy@hallsville.org

Our district was notified that an individual in the high school tested positive the night of Monday, September 21, and a second individual on Wednesday, September 23. We were also notified on Tuesday, September 22 that an individual in the middle school tested positive that day. Due to privacy laws, information regarding these individuals' identities cannot be released. Please respect the individuals' privacy during this time.

The district has worked with the Columbia/Boone County Health Department and the individuals who tested positive to conduct contact tracing. Although it is the role of the local health department to determine who was a "close contact" with each individual, our district staff is assisting them with this process. Contact tracing with these three individual positive cases have the potential to quarantine about 70 of our students and a few of our staff.

In each instance, communication was sent out based upon our <u>Fall Return to School</u> plans and detailed below.

"School Notifications: Following appropriate notification of a newly reported student or employee isolation status, the district will follow the protocols listed below for notifications.

- Schools & Bus Transportation: Families of all students attending the same school and riding the same bus of a confirmed COVID-19 case will be made aware of a positive case within the building and/or bus via email.
- Staff: All building staff, including traveling and classified staff, will be made aware of a positive case within the building.
- Close Contacts: Students and staff who have had their name submitted to the health department as being a potential close contact of the positive case while at



school will be notified via email. Students and employees who have been identified as a potential close contact should not return to school and await further instructions from the health department."

We are committed to the health and safety of all our students and staff and will continue to implement safety measures as outlined in our Fall Return to School plans.