



MOUNTAINSIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Mrs. Janet Walling
Superintendent of Schools

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Mountainside Parents & Guardians:

I would like to take a moment to share updated information that we have received regarding the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) from the NJ Department of Health. They recently published [Guidance for Child Care and K-12 Schools](#). This guidance answers a number of frequently asked questions and provides specific procedures for school districts to follow. We have posted this information, along with parent resources, under the "District News" section of our [website](#) for your review. Please rest assured that we continually evaluate all guidelines as soon as they are received and adjust any procedures accordingly in order to safeguard the health and security of our students and staff.

All information that we have received continues to stress that the current risk to NJ residents remains low.

This was reiterated through a conference call that I participated in on Tuesday evening with Governor Murphy, NJ State Department of Health Commissioner Judy Persichilli, and others. During this call, they spoke with educational administrators throughout the state and reinforced that the best approach is to continue following precautions which help prevent the spread of all illnesses. These recommendations include:

- Washing hands frequently for 20 seconds with soap and water
- Avoid touching one's face or shaking hands.
- Cover coughs and sneezes.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects
- Notify your child's school if you, or your child, has traveled to an area of the world highly impacted by COVID-19. Currently the CDC identifies these areas as: *China, Iran, Italy, Japan, and South Korea*
- Stay home when sick.
- Ensure children are fever free for at least 24 hours without medication prior to returning to school after an illness.

Please be aware that Mountainside Schools will exercise flexibility with respect to our current attendance policies should the need arise. Additionally, as recommended by the CDC, we have started planning for any possible scenarios which might require further action, such as providing for continuation of learning outside of school. This planning will also be based upon guidance just released by the NJ Department of Education which was created to help schools meet their 180-day requirement in the event of a required public-health related closure.

I would like to assure you that we will continue to maintain consistency of education for our students and staff while addressing any concerns that may arise. It is important that we are aware, prepared, but also calm in our response to these frequently changing circumstances. I appreciate your assistance and support.

Sincerely,

Janet Walling

Janet Walling, Superintendent