



MOUNTAINSIDE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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MRS. JANET WALLING – SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

April 10, 2021

Mountainside Parents/Guardians and Staff,

Good afternoon! I hope that everyone had a nice Spring Break and that your remote week of learning went smoothly. As we prepare for our return to in-person instruction on Monday, I am writing to let you know that the District was notified of a number of positive cases over our break and this past week. While all of these cases occurred outside of school and therefore did not cause close contact concerns within our buildings, they did result in an increased number of students needing to quarantine. This uptick in local cases also serves as a reminder that COVID-19 is still present within our student population and has actually increased at our younger grade levels. This knowledge is especially important to keep in mind as the weather gets nicer and everyone is understandably looking for increased opportunities to be outdoors and playing.

Mountainside School District is currently aware of the following number of active cases of COVID-19:

- Beechwood School – 4 // Deerfield School – 2

Mountainside Schools remains dedicated to following our mitigation measures in place such as universal masking, daily screening, social distancing, enhanced cleaning procedures, and other precautions. **While we are aware that the CDC and NJDOH has reduced the recommended spacing of students to 3 feet within the classroom, we remain committed to our practice of 6-foot distancing which is feasible in the vast majority of classrooms even if we have 100% in-person attendance. This is especially important as the requirement for 6-foot distancing remains in place for the following: student/staff interactions; times when students remove their masks to eat snack; at the middle school level when the region is in “orange” (which is still the case for Mountainside); and when contact tracing close contacts for positive cases.**

Please continue to assist us, and the community, in maintaining the safety and health of all students and staff by following CDC and NJDOH safeguards such as:

- If staff or students returned from travel outside of New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Delaware, or Pennsylvania within 10 days of school reopening they must follow district quarantine protocols.
 - Please contact your child’s school nurse as soon as possible if this applies to you in order to determine your child’s date of return to in-person instruction.
- Keep your child home if he/she, or any family member, is sick or displays COVID-like symptoms.
- If **ANY** person in your household has taken a COVID-19 test and is awaiting the result, your child may not come to school until the test result comes back and is negative
- Your child should quarantine if he/she has been identified as a close-contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- Encourage and follow all social distancing protocols and masking when participating in activities and sports outside of school.

I understand that this has been a LONG 14 months of precautions and protocols, and we are all hopeful for the light we are beginning to see, but the uptick in recent cases serves as a reminder that we need to work together to continue our path of success within the Mountainside Schools. We are coming to the home stretch of this very successful year, and I am confident that together we can keep our doors open and I look forward to welcoming even more students back during our final transition opportunity that is coming up in May.

Janet Walling