



MOUNTAINSIDE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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MRS. JANET WALLING – SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

May 7, 2021

Mountainside Parents/Guardians and Staff,

I am writing to inform you that the District has been notified of 1 individual at Deerfield School who has tested positive for COVID-19. This individual was not present in school during their infectious period. As a result, no staff or students were identified as close contacts.

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

- Beechwood School – 0 // Deerfield School – 1

I recognize that many of you would like more detailed information about these cases, or others, however privacy rights prohibit me from sharing anything further. Please continue to assist us in maintaining the safety and health of all students and staff by following the CDC and NJDOH safeguards, such as:

- 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 should not come to school until the test result comes back and is negative.
- As long as our region remains in the Yellow activity level, exposed close contacts will be excluded from school for 10 days. (or 7 days with negative PCR test results collected at 5-7 days)
 - Specifically, this means that students or staff can return to school on day 11 after exposure without testing, or they can return on day 8 with a negative PCR Test.
 - All dates and details must be verified and coordinated with the school nurse before a student or staff member can return.
 - These guidelines will also apply to any students who are on a travel quarantine.
 - Should our region return to an Orange/High level at any time in the future, we will adjust our requirements in order to align with the NJDOH guidance in place for that specific activity level.
- As per [guidance from the NJDOH](#) an alternate diagnosis will no longer be accepted for return to school if individuals are absent or sent home for symptoms which meet the COVID-19 exclusion criteria.
 - They will not be allowed to return to school until they have a negative COVID-19 test or meet the criteria for discontinuing home isolation.
 - Siblings of individuals who have COVID-19 compatible symptoms will be excluded from school for 10 days from date of the last contact or until a COVID-19 negative test is received from the symptomatic individual.
- Your child should quarantine if he/she has been identified as a close-contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19
 - Out of an abundance of caution for the safety and health of our staff and students, the District is expecting that siblings of any students who need to quarantine will remain home for the same quarantine period.
 - We recognize that siblings may be considered to be a “contact of a contact”, however, this approach has proven beneficial in decreasing the number of positive cases.

Thank you for your continued support of these protocols and helping to maintain the safety and health of all.

Janet Walling