



# MOUNTAINSIDE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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MRS. JANET WALLING — SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

March 26, 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.

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

- If staff or students travel outside of New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Delaware, or Pennsylvania they must quarantine for 10 days upon return and before returning to school.
  - **The NJDOH UPDATED their recommendations on March 23<sup>rd</sup> to include that:** All travelers (including essential workers such as healthcare personnel) should quarantine INCLUDING:
    - Individuals who are fully vaccinated, OR
    - Persons who clinically recovered from COVID-19 in the past 3 months.
  - As per the NJDOH: A more conservative approach is taken regarding travel due to the concern of travelers spreading variant virus strains from one area to another. Some variant strains may be more transmissible and could result in an increase in the number of cases, more strain on health care resources and possibly an increase in hospitalizations and deaths. Other variants may be of concern if they cause more severe illness, are not detectable with existing tests, if they don't respond to therapeutics, or if they impact on the effectiveness of vaccines. For all of these reasons, non-essential travel is discouraged and if travel is necessary, testing and quarantine are recommended.
  - Please be sure to contact your child's school nurse prior to our return to school if your travel plans have changed, or your child is impacted by the NJDOH changes outlined above. She will be able to assist you with determining 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 should quarantine 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.

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

- Beechwood School – 0 // Deerfield School –3

**Please remember that Mountainside Schools will be fully remote for ALL students April 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> with a return to in-person instruction on Monday, April 12<sup>th</sup>.**

Thank you for your continued support and I would like to wish everyone a safe and healthy upcoming holidays and time off.

*Janet Walling*