



MOUNTAINSIDE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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MRS. JANET WALLING – SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

April 16, 2021

Mountainside Parents/Guardians and Staff,

Good afternoon. I am writing to inform you that during this past week the District was notified of two separate situations of positive cases for COVID-19 at Deerfield School. Both of these cases occurred outside of school and therefore did not cause any close contact concerns within our buildings,

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

- Beechwood School – 3 // Deerfield School – 3

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.

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.**

- **If ANY person in your household has taken a COVID-19 test and is awaiting the result, your child CANNOT come to school until the test result comes back and is negative.**
- Keep your child home if he/she, or any family member, is sick or displays COVID-like symptoms.
- Wear masks and maintain social distancing (6 feet or more) with individuals outside of your family
- If staff or students travel outside of New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Delaware, or Pennsylvania they must follow district protocol and quarantine for 10 days upon return and before returning to school.
 - Day 1 of the quarantine begins on the day following your return to New Jersey.
- 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 with COVID-19 compatible symptoms will be excluded from school for 14 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 of our staff and students, the District expects siblings of any students who need to quarantine to remain home for the same quarantine period.
- Encourage and follow all social distancing protocols and masking when participating in activities and sports outside of school.

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

Janet Walling