



MOUNTAINSIDE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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MRS. JANET WALLING – SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

December 4, 2020

Mountainside Parents/Guardians and Staff,

I am writing to inform you that an individual in Deerfield School has tested positive for COVID-19 and is self-isolating. The District continues to work closely with the Westfield Regional Health Department to assist with contact tracing to assure the health and safety of our community. Based on the contact tracing of this case, and the recommendation of the Westfield Regional Health Department, we have determined the following:

- **One homeroom section will move to a fully remote model for a period of time. This decision was based upon the current risk level for our region (Orange), and out of an abundance of caution.** Our purpose in this temporary transition with one homeroom is to mitigate any reasonable possibility of spread within the school, which at the present time, we have no evidence of.
- Families in the specific homeroom being impacted by this case have already been notified that an individual in their child's class has tested positive.
- **The Westfield Regional Health Department has verified that, currently, all other District classrooms should continue to operate on their existing in-person schedules.**
- Any impacted areas will receive additional cleaning and sanitizing prior to students and staff returning to school on Monday.

I recognize that many of you would like more detailed information about this case, or others, however privacy rights prohibit me from sharing anything further. We remain hopeful that the mitigation measures we have in place, such as universal masking, screening procedures, social distancing, enhanced cleaning procedures, and other precautions, will continue to have their intended effect at reducing or minimizing the risk of transmission in the school environment.

Please assist us in this process by continuing to follow 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 test and is awaiting the result, then every household contact of that person should quarantine until the test result comes back and is negative;
 - Washing hands often for at least 20 seconds;
 - Covering coughs and sneezes and properly disposing of tissues;
 - Limiting close contact with people who are sick and not sharing food, drinks and utensils;
 - Practicing social distancing (staying at least 6 feet apart);
 - Wearing a face covering while in school;
 - Continuing to monitor your health for symptoms; and
 - Immediately notifying your child's school if they have a positive COVID-19 test result or if there's a positive case in your household.
- As of today the District has the following number of active cases:
 - Beechwood - 0 / Deerfield – 3 (*1 individual was not in school during the infectious period*)

Please remain vigilant in your approach to dealing with this health concern, especially during the upcoming holidays.

Janet Walling