



# MOUNTAINSIDE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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MRS. JANET WALLING – SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

February 15, 2021

Mountainside Parents/Guardians and Staff,

Good evening. I am writing to inform you that the District has been notified of 1 individual at Deerfield School who has recently tested positive for COVID-19. 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 tracing of this case, it has been determined that there were no close contact concerns within the schools.

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

- Beechwood School – 0 // Deerfield School – 2

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 may not come to school until the test result comes back and is negative.
- 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.
  - 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 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 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 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 other recent reminders that have been shared regarding the [use of school property after school](#). Your assistance with all of these areas helps to maintain the safety and health of all.

*Janet Walling*