



# MOUNTAINSIDE BOARD OF EDUCATION

1 497 WOODACRES DR., MOUNTAINSIDE, NJ 07092  
908-232-3232

[WWW.MOUNTAINSIDESCHOOLS.ORG](http://WWW.MOUNTAINSIDESCHOOLS.ORG)

MRS. JANET WALLING – SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

January 25, 2021

Mountainside Parents/Guardians and Staff,

I am writing to inform you that an individual in Beechwood 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. **A school nurse, in partnership with the Health Department, has already communicated directly with any individuals who may be identified as a close contact and has advised them accordingly.**

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, your child should not come to school until the test result comes back and is negative
  - Washing hands often for at least 20 seconds;
  - Limiting close contact with people who are sick and not sharing food or drinks;
  - Practicing social distancing (staying at least 6 feet apart);
  - Wearing a face covering while in school;
  - Immediately notifying your child's school nurse if they have a positive COVID-19 test result or if there's a positive case in your household.
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- As of today the District has the following number of active cases:
    - Beechwood - 1 / Deerfield – 0

**Winter Weather Reminders:** Please refer to my [Winter Weather Protocol](#) letter sent on December 14<sup>th</sup> for guidance and reminders of the process we will follow this year. Specifically, I am aware that there is the potential for hazardous driving conditions tomorrow. Should this forecast cause us to close for road and safety conditions, we would use the following protocol:

- Schools would transition to our Fully Remote Shortened Day Schedule (8:15-12:45) for ALL students.
- A School Messenger blast would be sent out to notify families and staff of this change
- **PLEASE NOTE:** NO determination has been made at this moment, and I will continue to monitor the weather forecast throughout the evening and overnight, however I want to provide you with information on this possibility should the weather and conditions dictate this need.

Thank you for your continued support of these protocols and helping to maintain a safe environment for all staff and students.

*Janet Walling*