



# MOUNTAINSIDE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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MRS. JANET WALLING – SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

March 17, 2021

Mountainside Parents/Guardians and Staff,

Good evening. I am writing to inform you that the District was notified of two separate situations of positive cases for COVID-19 at Deerfield School involving 3 individuals.

The District worked closely with the Westfield Regional Health Department to assist with contact tracing of these cases to assure the health and safety of our community. Based on the information gathered, the Westfield Regional Health Department has determined that no close contact occurred within the buildings as all 3 individuals were not present in the school during their infectious periods. As a result, the Health Department has determined that all classrooms should continue to remain open. Any individuals who we know of that may have had exposure to our current cases outside of school have been contacted by our district nurses, or the Health Department, and advised of quarantine requirements. Mountainside has the following number of active cases:

- Beechwood School – 0
- Deerfield School – 5

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.

**Given this recent increase in positive cases, it is vital that all families and staff work together to maintain the health and safety of everyone and for our buildings to remain open for in-person instruction. I must stress the importance of the protocols that we have in place including the following:**

- **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 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.
  - **Notify your child's school nurse if you will be traveling during the upcoming Spring Break in order to confirm your child's date of return to in-person instruction.**
- 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 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.

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

*Janet Walling*