

# MOUNTAINSIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT

MOUNTAINSIDE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
1497 WOODACRES DRIVE  
MOUNTAINSIDE, NJ 07092  
PHONE: (908) 232-3232  
FAX: (908) 232-1743



Mrs. Janet Walling  
Superintendent of Schools

[www.mountainsideschools.org](http://www.mountainsideschools.org)

November 6, 2020

Mountainside Parents/Guardians:

I am writing with a follow up regarding the recent COVID-19 cases in and around Mountainside. Please read this correspondence thoroughly as there are a number of very important aspects to be aware of.

### **Recent Cases of COVID-19:**

- The District has been made aware of 2 unrelated possible COVID-19 cases within our school community.
  - The first case involved a person who did not attend in-person classes during the infectious period. As a result, there is no concern for any close-contact with other members of the school community.
  - The second possible case involved a member of the school community who was in attendance during the potential infectious period. Contact tracing results, however, determined that there were minimal opportunities for close-contact to occur within school and anyone who was deemed a close contact of this person has already been notified by school administration.
    - **The Westfield Department of Health participated in the contact tracing process and DOES NOT recommend the need for any classroom, building, or program closures as a result of these situations.**

**School District Quarantine Protocols:** I have received a variety of questions over the past few days regarding the District's procedures and protocols in terms of student and staff self-quarantine. Please be aware of the following:

### **Your child should self-quarantine and join remote instruction if:**

- Your child OR someone in your household has tested positive for COVID-19
- Your child, or someone in your household, has been recommended for COVID-19 testing or is awaiting the results of a COVID-19 test
- Your child has been identified as a close-contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19
  - A close contact is defined by the NJDOH as *spending 15 or more cumulative minutes within 6 feet of an infected individual, over a 24 hour period.*

### **In addition to the self-quarantine protocols above:**

- 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.
  - While we recognize these students may be considered to be a "contact of a contact", we are encouraging an extra cautious approach at this time given the recent increase in positive cases in Mountainside.

It is through actions such as these, along with our ability to maintain social distance in classrooms, our continued use of face coverings, and our support for each other that our doors have remained open for all students. This situation may continue to change over the coming days and weeks and I will keep you updated if there is a need to make any changes to our instructional plan in any classes or schools.

Please reach out to the school nurse, your pediatrician, and/or the [Westfield Department of Health](http://www.westfieldnj.gov/health) if you are in need of any additional guidance or if your child has been confirmed to have, or is suspected to have, COVID-19.