



Mountainside School District

Health Offices

Beechwood School

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

We would like to share some updated health information and reminders given the changing environment involving the coronavirus pandemic. These changes have been put in place partly because of the COVID-19 Regional Risk Matrix. This is a tool local health departments and schools look at when assessing COVID-19 risk. Our region is currently considered to be at the high risk level (orange). Last week some key guidance was changed by NJDOH in their latest [COVID-19 update for K-12 schools](#).

Key Updates Include the Following IMPORTANT Protocols in Place for all Students and Staff:

- Exclusion from school will be enforced for individuals (student or staff) with COVID-19 compatible symptoms (**Two** of the following: fever, chills, shivers, fatigue, body aches, headache, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea or **ONE** of the following: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell) until they have a negative COVID-19 test or have met the criteria for discontinuing home isolation (10 days from the onset of symptoms).
- An alternate diagnosis will no longer be accepted for return to school when individuals (students or staff) meet the COVID-19 exclusion criteria. For example, if your child is absent or sent home from school with at least **TWO** of the following symptoms: fever, chills, shivers, muscles aches, headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea fatigue congestion or runny nose or **ONE** of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new loss or taste or smell, 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 (10 days from the onset of symptoms).
- Siblings or household contacts of individuals who have COVID-19 compatible symptoms (as stated above), or are awaiting COVID-19 test results, 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.
- Individuals who are displaying compatible symptoms for COVID-19 will be considered a probable positive case until a negative test result is received.

We understand that these new protocols are a significant change from our past practices but the goal is to keep our schools open and all of our students and staff safe during this time.

As always if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact us.

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