



# MOUNTAINSIDE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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MRS. JANET WALLING – SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

November 18, 2020

Mountainside Parents/Guardians and Staff:

I am writing to inform you that we have been made aware that an individual within the Mountainside School District has recently tested positive for COVID-19. This individual was NOT in attendance at either of our schools during the infectious period and is currently on self-quarantine. Based on this information, the Westfield Department of Health has determined that there is no concern for any close-contact with other members of the school community and therefore no students or staff are required to quarantine.

- *As a reminder, the NJ Department of Health defines a close contact as someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated.*

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.

We encourage parents and students to assist us in process by continuing to follow the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention promoted safeguards, such as:

- Staying home when you are sick;
- Washing hands often for at least 20 seconds;
- Covering coughs and sneezes and properly disposing of tissues;
- Limiting close contact with people who are sick and not sharing food, drinks and utensils;
- Practicing social distancing (staying at least 6 feet apart);
- Wearing a face covering while in school; and
- Continuing to monitor your health for symptoms
- Immediately notifying your child's school if they have a positive COVID-19 test result or if you have a positive case within your household

I appreciate your continued support and cooperation. Please remain vigilant in your approach to dealing with this health concern, especially during the upcoming holidays.

Wishing you and your family good health,

*Janet Walling*  
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