



# MOUNTAINSIDE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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MRS. JANET WALLING – SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

February 3, 2021

Mountainside Parents/Guardians and Staff,

Good evening and I hope that everyone remained warm and safe throughout the recent storm. We are looking forward to welcoming everyone back for our in-person instruction tomorrow. I am writing to inform you that the District was notified today of 2 individuals at Deerfield School who recently tested positive for COVID-19.

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. Based on the timing and tracing of these cases, the Westfield Regional Health Department has determined that there was limited opportunity for close contact within the schools. **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.** Mountainside School District is aware of the following number of active cases of COVID-19 as of today:

- Beechwood School – 0 // Deerfield School – 2

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. Please continue to assist us in maintaining the safety and health of all students and staff by following 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-19 test and is awaiting the result, your child should not come to school until the test result comes back and is negative.
- 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.
- 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 who have 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.
    - We recognize that siblings may be considered to be a “contact of a contact”, however, this approach has proven beneficial in decreasing the number of positive cases.

**Winter Weather Update:** Please be aware that at this time the District has utilized all inclement weather days that were built into our calendar. As a result, we expect that any future days where schools are closed due to snow or other safety concerns will be treated as Remote Learning Days for ALL students. Notifications and reminders will be provided should we need to implement any of these days moving forward.

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

*Janet Walling*