



MOUNTAINSIDE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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MRS. JANET WALLING – SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

January 11, 2021

Mountainside Parents/Guardians and Staff,

Good evening. I am writing to inform you that the District was notified today of 2 individuals at Deerfield School and 1 individual at Beechwood 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 no close contact concern within the buildings today. Individuals who may have had contact with our current cases outside of school have been contacted by our District nurses. Mountainside has the following number of active cases as of today:

- Beechwood School – 1
- Deerfield School – 5
- Central Office - 1

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 the continuing rise in positivity rates and active cases, both locally and around the state, 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 would like to stress the importance of the protocols that we have in place including the following:

- 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 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.

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

Janet Walling