



MOUNTAINSIDE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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MRS. JANET WALLING – SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

January 7, 2021

Mountainside Parents/Guardians and Staff,

Good wishes for a happy and healthy new year to everyone. I hope that you had a nice time off and that your week of remote learning is going well so far!

In preparation for our anticipated return to In-Person Learning on Monday, January 11th, and to ensure the ongoing health and safety of all staff and students, I would like share a few updates and reminders:

- **If staff or students traveled outside of New Jersey during the winter break, or this week, they must quarantine for 10 days upon return and prior to returning to school.**
 - **Day 1 of the quarantine begins on the day following your return to New Jersey.**
 - Travel to New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and Delaware are exempt from this.
 - Contact your school nurse directly to discuss and confirm your child's date of return to school.
- **If anyone in your household tested positive for COVID-19 over the winter break please notify your school nurse as soon as possible.**
- If **ANY** person in your household has taken a COVID test and is awaiting the result, **your child should not come to school** until the test result comes back and is negative.
- 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.
- The NJDOH has updated their guidance to reflect many of these adjustments. Full information and specific details regarding "COVID Exclusion Criteria" can be found here: [Guidance for K-12 Schools](#)
- Please complete your child's Health Screening Form in PowerSchool each morning before he/she arrives at school. Your consistency with this is vital in helping everyone get off to a good start each morning!
- Do not hesitate to contact our school nurses about any of the items above or other health related concerns. They have a wealth of knowledge and can help guide you through any questions you may have:
 - Beechwood School – Lisa Bruno: libruno@mountainsideschools.org
 - Deerfield School – Sonia Branco: sbranco@mountainsideschools.org

As of today (1/7/2021) the District is aware of the following number of active cases: **Beechwood - 0 / Deerfield – 3**
*These cases originated outside of school and the timeline indicates there is NO concern for close contact with staff or students within the District.

Thank you for your efforts and diligence in following these protocols. We will continue to closely monitor local and regional health information and adjust when necessary in order to best maintain the health and safety of our students and staff. Please remain vigilant in your approach to dealing with this health concern.