



MOUNTAINSIDE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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MRS. JANET WALLING – SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

November 16, 2020

Mountainside Staff, Parents and Guardians:

I am writing to inform the school community that we have had no additional positive cases of COVID-19 reported for students or staff since my last update on November 8th. While a number of students or staff may have quarantined due to exposure to close-contacts or being the sibling of a close contact, I am pleased to share that the uptick in cases seen locally is currently not impacting the rate of positive cases within our classrooms and buildings.

It is imperative that we continue to follow all health and safety procedures with diligence. I would like to share a few reminders and information:

- **Return to In-Person Learning** - If your child is attending school remotely for ANY reason, the following steps **MUST** be taken prior to his/her return to in-person learning:
 - At the beginning of your child’s time on remote learning, you should receive a verification of an anticipated return date from your child’s principal, counselor, or school nurse.
 - If you do not receive this it is important that you reach out to them to clarify the date of return.
 - If you expect for your child’s date of return to change for ANY reason, you are required to do the following to ensure a smooth transition for both staff and students:
 - Contact your child’s principal or school nurse at least 48 hours before your anticipated return to discuss the change **BEFORE** sending your child back to school.
 - You must receive verbal or written verification from the school of this change request being accepted **PRIOR** to sending your child to school.
 - Please note: These expectations do not apply to those families looking to return from remote learning during one of our identified “transition points”.
- **Out-of-State and Holiday Travel** – As we approach the holidays, please remember the district protocol regarding a return to in-person instruction after travel. If a student, or staff member, travels internationally or to a state that is on the NJ Travel Advisory List, the protocol is as follows:
 - Self-quarantine for 14 days following the date of return to New Jersey or exposure to someone who tests positive for COVID-19.
 - Students will still need to self-quarantine even if they receive a negative COVID test.

- Notify the building principal and/or school nurse of travel plans to determine the date that your child can return to In-Person Instruction.
- Students will be placed on temporary Remote Learning and assigned to a Remote Cohort to maintain consistency of education while on quarantine.
- **Emergency Alert and Remote Technology Survey** – Please take a moment to complete the attached [Emergency Alert and Remote Technology Survey](#). This information will help the District to ensure that you receive any necessary emergency notifications and to determine the needs for district-provided Chromebooks IF there is ever a need for us to transition to a fully remote format. **Please fill out one survey per family.**

I would like to again thank everyone for your continued vigilance to safety and distancing precautions, open communication, and commitment to the health and safety of our staff and students.

Be well,

Janet Walling

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