



December 11, 2020

MBS Family:

Following the CDC's lead, the Alabama Department of Public Health has officially released [new guidance](#) reducing the number of days that people exposed to the coronavirus must quarantine. Beginning today, individuals in quarantine may return to school/work after 10 days as long as they have not experienced coronavirus symptoms and commit to daily self-monitoring for symptoms with consistent adherence to social distancing and mask wearing.

While 14 days remains the optimal quarantine period, this adjustment will limit the amount of time that our students and teachers are away from the classroom. Already, we have begun contacting individuals who can now return to school earlier than expected. We view this as good news and believe the revised guidance will enhance learning by reducing gaps in in-person instruction.

For the second straight week, Mountain Brook Schools eclipsed the daily number of positive coronavirus cases that we identified as the threshold for publishing our school system's case count. MBS exceeded 20 positive cases upon returning from Thanksgiving break and, as of today, has 36 positive cases among students, faculty, and staff.

It is important to remember that this data has been reported voluntarily by members of our school community and is therefore unofficial. If you need to report a positive case or possible exposure, please contact your school nurse. If you need to get tested for COVID-19, [Interim Healthcare](#) is offering testing on Monday and Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

MBS reminds you to be vigilant in masking, distancing, and practicing good hygiene this school year. Our collective commitment to these practices will help mitigate coronavirus spread and keep our students in school as much as possible. We also urge you to avoid large group social gatherings to mitigate virus spread in our community. Many of the positive cases reported in our school system are the result of non-school-related activities and family contacts. We are aware of several large social gatherings that occurred last weekend and have directly impacted the opportunity for certain students to attend school.

Before scheduling an event, you can consult the [Georgia Tech COVID-19 Event Risk Assessment Planning Tool](#) to view the risk level of coronavirus transmission at events of varying sizes. UAB has also published a number of resources about safety during the holidays and winter season that we have posted on our website. You can find them under the “Reopening Resources” tab on our [reopening webpage](#).

Please know that our school system’s abiding priority is to ensure the health and safety of our school community while providing an effective, challenging, and engaging education for every one of our students. We wish everyone the best of luck on exams next week as we wrap up the first semester. MBJH and MBHS will follow a modified exam schedule and be flexible in accommodating our students and families.

We will have more information to share in the coming days about our plans for returning to school after the holidays. If you have any questions, please email covid19questions@mtnbrook.k12.al.us.