



January 15, 2021

MBS Family,

We enjoyed welcoming our students back to school this week as we resumed in-person instruction on all of our campuses. As promised last semester, we will continue to share our coronavirus numbers when we have more than 20 positive cases across the district. As you know, we experienced a record number of cases and quarantines before Winter Break. Our cases have trended downward since peaking in mid-December and, as of today, we have 27 positive cases and 90 quarantines among students, faculty, and staff in our school system.

Please understand that while your voluntarily reported data provide valuable insight, we also consider other factors — including general attendance, staff and student data, and data and guidance from the Jefferson County Department of Health specific to our community — to inform our decision-making. We will continue to keep you abreast of our coronavirus data throughout the second semester and communicate general updates weekly.

Furthermore, we want to reiterate that students will be masked and socially distanced when they are at school. In fact, Mountain Brook Schools requires anyone who comes to one of our campuses to wear a mask. Our teachers will also continue to reinforce good hygiene practices, while our custodians perform daily cleaning in our buildings. MBS remains committed to creating a safe and healthy environment for all students and employees.

To help us accomplish this, we are asking for your continued assistance in observing the following:

- Use the [Mountain Brook Schools Symptom Check Tool](#) daily.
- Keep your student at home if they are sick.
- Contact your school nurse if your student tests positive for the coronavirus or has been exposed to a positive case.
- Talk to your student about the importance of masking, distancing, and good hygiene.
- Avoid large group social gatherings.

If you need to get tested for the coronavirus, [Interim Healthcare](#) is offering testing on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. To report a positive case or possible exposure over the upcoming long weekend, you can text or call the MBS COVID-19 Weekend Call Line at **205-703-1298** to connect with a school nurse who can provide guidance. The line will be active Saturday, Jan. 16, through Monday, Jan. 18. It is of the utmost importance that you report coronavirus activity so that we have reliable data to aid our decision-making.

As soon as it is feasible, our goal is for secondary students to return to in-person instruction Monday through Friday with a two-hour delayed start on Wednesday; however, now is not the time to make that shift. MBS is continuing to monitor coronavirus data for our school system and county, and will continue to follow guidance from our public health and government officials throughout the second semester. Our chief priority is to make informed decisions that prioritize the health and safety of our school community while ensuring the continued provision of an effective, challenging, and engaging education.

Thank you for your patience and support.