



September 11, 2020

MBS Family,

Thank you for your patience and flexibility in the reopening of our schools. I am proud of our students, faculty, and staff for their perseverance and commitment to learning during these challenging times. You should truly be commended for these efforts and creativity in transitioning back to our buildings during the COVID-19 pandemic. The number of positive or close contact cases in our school system has remained low thanks to the density reduction and cohorting strategies implemented across our district, along with your dedication to masking, distancing, and personal hygiene. These steps have allowed us to continue providing our students with a Mountain Brook education both in-person and virtually.

We appreciate your adaptability and encourage you to continue taking these health and safety precautions seriously. Your commitment to these strategies will allow us to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and eventually return to traditional school full-time. While we all would love to identify a specific target date, we believe the best process in determining changes to our district plan is to use the metrics developed with guidance from the Jefferson County Department of Health. These metrics are listed below:

- The average daily incidence of COVID-19 cases over one week has been less than 10 cases per day per 100,000 population in Jefferson County, or an average of 66 cases per day.
- The positive rate for COVID-19 tests over one week in Jefferson County has been less than 5%.
- Jefferson County is in green or yellow (low or moderate risk) on the Alabama Department of Public Health's Risk Indicator Map.
- Local school data shows positivity, contact, and absentee rates in the school system remain at manageable levels. The school system will publish its local rates if the number of positive COVID-19 cases in the district reaches 20 or more, or if close contact cases drive the district's absentee rate to 20% or more.
- These metrics should be observed over a 3-week period.

At this time, our current plan remains in effect. While we understand the plan is challenging for our students, teachers, and entire community, we believe it is the best approach to keep our schools open. COVID-19 data for Jefferson County is updated each Friday and can be found on the [Alabama Department of Public Health website](#).

We are examining data on a daily and weekly basis and will communicate a specific return-to-school date when the outlined metrics indicate that it is safe to return to a more traditional school environment. The virtual learning option will remain in place.

Thank you for your continued patience and understanding in this unprecedented time. I look forward to the day we can all be together again. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

Dicky Barlow, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Mountain Brook Schools