



March 11, 2021

MBS Family,

The number of coronavirus cases in Mountain Brook Schools has steadily declined in recent weeks. In fact, our case count is at its lowest point since the pandemic started one year ago. We are extremely grateful for this development and attribute it to multiple factors, including vaccination opportunities and your commitment to masking, distancing, and good hygiene. Please continue these critical practices with vigilance.

Due to the waning presence of coronavirus in our school system, students at Mountain Brook Junior High and Mountain Brook High School will resume a regular weekly schedule upon returning from spring break. All students enrolled in the traditional learning option will attend school Monday through Friday as they would in a normal school year. This shift will not affect our masking or physical distancing procedures, which will remain in place, nor will it mark the end of our full-time virtual option. Students who have chosen the virtual learning platform for the 4th 9 weeks will remain enrolled.

Our plan has always been to safely resume a regular schedule while honoring the time our teachers need to plan for and work with their virtual students. To that end, we are planning to observe two virtual days at the secondary level on **April 14 and 28**. These days will allow our students to engage in virtual learning, continue to recover any necessary work, and prepare for final exams. They will also allow our teachers to work with virtual students and prepare for any end-of-the-semester instruction.

Plans regarding spring activities at MBJH and MBHS are still being finalized, but please know that we are going to do our best to give our students a quality experience to close this unusual school year. At the elementary level, principals will be communicating with you about increased opportunities for students within their buildings and end-of-the-year events.

MBS remains committed to creating a safe and healthy environment for all students and employees. Our teachers are continuing to reinforce masking, distancing, and good hygiene practices, while our custodians are cleaning our buildings thoroughly on a daily basis. Furthermore, we are asking for your continued assistance in observing the following:

- Use the [MBS 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 the Big 3: 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 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. If you need to report a positive case or possible exposure over the 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. It is very important that you report coronavirus activity so that we have reliable data to aid our decision-making. If you are traveling during the upcoming spring break, you can refer to these [CDC guidelines](#) to help inform your planning.

Additionally, MBS faculty and staff are continuing to cycle through the second round of coronavirus vaccination appointments with UAB Health. Many are also set to be vaccinated for the second time at a vaccination clinic in Vestavia Hills made possible by Coosa Valley Medical Center on Friday, March 12. By the end of Friday's clinic, most school system employees will have had the opportunity to be fully vaccinated. Furthermore, our substitute employees have had an opportunity to be vaccinated as well thanks to Southview Medical Group at St. Vincent's.

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 steadfast concern for your children, our staff, and our community. We all know this has been a tremendously hard year, but for the first time it appears there is light at the end of the tunnel. May we continue to diligently follow our safety measures so that we can eradicate this virus and return to a normal, healthy school and community environment.

Humbly Yours,

Dicky Barlow, Ed. D.
Superintendent
Mountain Brook Schools