



October 2, 2020

Mountain Brook Schools would like to thank you for your commitment to following the health and safety guidelines implemented to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Your consistency in wearing masks, practicing physical distancing, and maintaining excellent hygiene has helped solidify a promising start to this unconventional school year. So has your flexibility in embracing our alternating schedule at the secondary level. We know it hasn't been easy to have your students at home two or three days a week, but this density reduction strategy has played a pivotal role in creating a healthy and safe school environment at the junior high and high school. We advise that you continue taking all health and safety precautions seriously so that we can prevent a rise in positive cases and safely reopen our schools at full capacity in the near future.

We are encouraged by the fact that the number of positive cases and quarantines — which are figures reported voluntarily and anecdotally by members of our school community — has continued to decline. We have yet to reach the daily threshold of 20 positive cases at which we would publish our district case count. The specific number of cases in MBS hasn't been released to protect the privacy of those families affected by the virus.

In the coming weeks, state agencies will likely publish COVID-19 data for school districts across Alabama. We are not certain how that data will be sourced, whether from statistics reported directly by school districts or county health departments. Recently, the Jefferson County Department of Health informed us there were 524 positive cases among all Mountain Brook residents between June 28 and Sept. 19. Of those positive cases, 127 were in the 5-18 age range. These numbers reflect positive cases mandatorily reported from testing sites to the county health department and may include students who do not attend Mountain Brook Schools.

As you know, MBS will continue to rely on guidance from the Alabama State Department of Education, Alabama Department of Public Health, and Jefferson County Department of Health as it determines next steps for this school year. The direction provided by these agencies has allowed the school district 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. We are evaluating available information daily and anticipate sharing an update with you next week that includes new information about our reopening plan. As a reminder, you can track COVID-19 data for Jefferson County via [alabamapublichealth.gov](http://alabamapublichealth.gov). That information is updated every Friday.

Additionally, please note that Interim Healthcare — which is offering efficient COVID-19 testing for MBS students, faculty, and staff — will scale back its hours of operation beginning Monday, Oct. 5.

Moving forward, you will be able to access testing on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please see [this flyer](#) for more information.

If you have any questions, email [covid19questions@mtnbrook.k12.al.us](mailto:covid19questions@mtnbrook.k12.al.us). We will respond to your inquiry as quickly as possible.

Remember, we are all in this together.