



October 30, 2020

MBS Family,

Today we are sharing updated COVID-19 data that has been reported directly to Mountain Brook Schools. Please note that this data is unofficial because it relies on voluntary reporting from our school community and is listed in percentages to protect the privacy and confidentiality of those who have reported. The following data covers the past three weeks since we last [shared our district percentages](#).

Mountain Brook Schools District Data (Unofficial)

- Percent of enrolled students reporting positive cases from Oct. 8-29: **0.3%**
- Percent of enrolled students quarantined due to close contact with a positive case from Oct. 8-29: **0.9%**
- Percent of employees reporting positive cases from Oct. 8-29: **1.3%**
- Percent of all employees quarantined due to close contact with a positive case from Oct. 8-29: **1.8%**

The percent of students and employees reporting positive cases should not be confused with the “percent positive” rate reported by the public health department. Our school system’s unofficial statistics are based on the number of students and employees who tell us they have tested positive. The “percent positive” rate reported by public health refers to the percent of all COVID-19 tests that come back positive. Additionally, it is important to remember that quarantine numbers do not imply transmission from the school setting. Most close contact quarantines have resulted from non-school-related activities or family contacts.

Although our school system’s unofficial COVID-19 numbers are lower than when we shared them on Oct. 8, cases are on the rise throughout our county, state, and country. It is exceptionally important for our school community to report positive cases to the school system and continue to mask, distance, and practice good hygiene so that we can mitigate virus spread and remain in school safely. As a reminder, you can monitor COVID-19 data for Jefferson County via alabamapublichealth.gov.

Furthermore, the Alabama State Department of Education will begin reporting weekly positive case counts for school districts across the state. The ALSDE has partnered with the Alabama Department of Public Health to create a dashboard that will release soon and update each Friday. The ALSDE School COVID-19 Community Tracker is based on voluntary data that is provided by each school community to its local school system. The data has not been verified by the JCDH or ADPH and should not be interpreted as complete or accurate with regard to community

spread. This data should also not be used to make decisions related to your child or family's health, exposure risk, or planning public activities. We will send more information about how to access the tracker as it becomes available.

In the meantime, you can [listen to this podcast](#) featuring MBS Director of Student Services Amanda Hood, MBS COVID Coordinator Sandra Overstreet, and Mountain Brook Junior High Principal Donald Clayton. They provide context for interpreting the dashboard and briefly discuss the contact tracing process in our schools.

As we move forward this school year, MBS will continue to track data closely and follow guidance from the JCDH, ADPH, and ALSDE. Their expertise has enabled our 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.