



Weekly Update
January 21, 2022

MBS Parents,

Thank you for your continued support as we navigate the unknown journey of COVID. There are a few specific COVID updates that we would like to share with you in preparation for the coming days. The Jefferson County Health Department has communicated that the coming weeks will be challenging for many of our schools, businesses, and communities.

Our team continues to meet daily to review all new cases. In working with our team of nurses, administrators, faculty and staff, we are monitoring classroom trends and any known connections between cases. Every day, we review students and staff who are positive and check for potential connections to others. If at any time we see potential connections, we will act at the most direct level. In some cases, this may be an individual classroom or a grade level. Cleaning, remote learning, or small group masking are all possible strategies to combat the aforementioned situations.

Through these reviews, we have learned several things that we would like to share with you.

The spread of COVID is impacting our staffing.

Despite our faculty and staff's continued efforts, there is a daily scramble to ensure that all staff absences are covered in order to maintain a safe, productive learning environment. To date, we have been successful in keeping our programs open and our students engaged in person. Every day there are new problems to solve, cases to evaluate, programs to consider, and decisions to be made. We will continue to work to keep our students in school and as many programs open as possible in the coming days. However, staffing impacts everything we do, and should we have a situation where an adjustment needs to be made, we will notify you as soon as possible.

Very few COVID reports identify school as the location of transmission.

At this time, the state of Alabama, as well as Jefferson County, are experiencing high levels of transmission. These cases appear to be spreading quickly, but current health department procedures allow for a more rapid return to activities if masked. Based on recent local data received by our nurses from parents and families, 60.1% of recent COVID positive and close contact cases are originating through family household exposures. Only 2.8% of those cases are reported as originating in the school setting. The remaining cases are reported as community-based or unknown. While our schools continue to be places that strive for students to learn safely, it is understood that COVID does not discriminate based on location. It is an

active virus in our homes, community, county, and schools. Our schools are continually cleaned with large-scale disinfecting occurring on a regular basis.

As typically reported on the [Alabama School Dashboard](#), MBS experienced 157 total new positive COVID cases last week. This data was inadvertently omitted from the state department website last week. On Friday, January 21, 2022, MBS has 124 individuals who are COVID positive and 67 who are designated as a close contact. This week, 104 individuals were able to immediately return to school due to [COVID protocols](#).

If your child feels sick, please consult your primary health care physician. If your child has tested positive or has come in close contact with a COVID positive individual, please reach out to your school nurse. The weekend call line number is 205-703-1298.

We appreciate your understanding and patience as we navigate the COVID situation on a daily basis. We are hopeful that this particular set of issues will be behind us in the very near future. Have a great weekend!

GOOD NEWS:

- + MBJH teacher, Sydney Dismukes, was named the '2022 AWLA Promising New Teacher.' [Click here](#) to learn more.
- + Cherokee Bend PTO [funded two 'Lu Playground'](#) devices in the gym. These tools will be a great resource for students through interactive learning.
- + MBHS conducted the annual ['College Admission Workshop'](#) on Friday morning in the MBHS gym. Multiple colleges and universities were present.
- + MBHS students used the district podcast room to [record their podcasts](#) for College Prep English 11 this week!