



Weekly Update
August 20, 2021

MBS Parents,

The first full week of this school year has come to a close! Hopefully, your child has settled into their daily routine. Every week, there are new and exciting things happening in our schools. Activities are beginning, relationships are being fostered, and students are growing all throughout our system.

However, like most areas throughout our state, our reported COVID numbers have increased dramatically [since last week](#) (see below). Our current numbers resemble our peak statistics from last school year. We monitor every reported case and close contact, and have noted that positive reports of COVID among students, teachers, and staff are overwhelmingly results from residual summer activities, family contact, or group gatherings outside of school. To date, there has been minimal transmission within our school buildings.

We need your help. While many school activities are just now beginning, we want to reaffirm that while in school, our students, teachers, and staff are doing their best to keep each other safe while retaining a sense of normalcy. Our goal is for students to learn in-person every day. With rising numbers, we ask that you be mindful of group gatherings, activities outside of school, as well as personal hygiene and distancing. Please talk to your child about safe practices when not at school. We ask that you not send your child to school if they are exhibiting symptoms or have come in close contact with a COVID-positive individual, unless your child is fully vaccinated (as per the ADPH recommendations).

Please be assured that we're doing everything we can to keep our students, teachers, and staff healthy while continuing to prioritize an effective, challenging, and engaging education for every one of our students.

MBS Good News

- Some MBJH students and staff are adapting to classrooms in ["Learning Pods"](#) this school year due to construction.
- The Spartan athletic seasons are underway at MBJH and MBHS. The volleyball program began its season this week. Additionally, the varsity football team begins their season tonight at home versus Vestavia! The players, coaches, band, color guard, Dorians, cheerleaders and everyone involved has worked hard all summer for this season. Kickoff is at 7 pm at Spartan Stadium. All MBHS athletic event tickets can be [purchased on GoFan.](#)

- Spartan Stadium has a new [LED color lighting system](#) and will also soon be home to a new [video board](#).

Self-Reported COVID Numbers (*will be reported if case numbers >20)

- 78 positive cases are currently being monitored by Mountain Brook Schools
- 122 individuals are currently designated as close contacts by the 3 foot, 15-minute criteria from the ADPH
- 11 of the 122 close contact individuals have been able to return to school due to full vaccination status and did not display symptoms

Notification

- School nurses should be made aware of any possible symptoms and/or positive cases
- A school nurse will be on-call every weekend and cases/symptoms can be reported by texting or calling 205-703-1298
- Please see our [2021-22 Reopening Plan](#) for more information regarding screening, testing, school exclusion, and more

General Safety Reminders

- Use the [MBS Symptom Tracker](#) to help make decisions regarding school attendance should your child feel unwell
- Symptoms of COVID-19 include:
 - Fever or chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- If your child is exhibiting ANY of these symptoms, they should not attend school
- Facial coverings are required indoors at all MBS facilities until further notice
- Maintain personal hygiene (wash hands for 20 seconds with soap and water, use hand sanitizer frequently)
- Remember to distance and avoid large crowds
- Please do not send your child to school if they are unwell

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation during these times.

Mountain Brook Schools