

This is a message for students and parents of the Mount Carmel Area School District.

We hope our learning community is having a joyous and restful holiday break!

Just a few reminders as we return to school on Monday, January 3rd.

- Please continue daily morning screenings of all children before sending them to school each day.
- ***Please keep your child home if they are exhibiting any COVID symptoms, or if any household member is awaiting test results, if any household member is positive, or has unexplained symptoms. Please also communicate with and update your building nurse.***
- Information regarding vaccines for students ages 5 and above is found on our school district main website under the “News and Events” section.
  - Our district will continue to update the COVID-19 tracker, found on our main website, with the most up to date information regarding positive cases in our buildings.
  - Our district will continue to contact any student and family if we believe they would be considered a close contact of a positive case.
  - We continue to value the importance of in person learning especially after what we faced last school year as a learning community. But our current reality is that cases continue to rise. Our families are asked to have plans related to child care as we navigate through the winter months in the event a single building or our district would need to move to virtual instruction for a short period of time due a rise in positive cases in our school district.

Finally, the CDC updated their recommended isolation and quarantine guidance for those that test positive for COVID-19 and those that are considered to be a close contact. The updated guidance is found on our main website within the “Back to School Response Guide” document. We are awaiting guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Education on these updated guidelines. As of today, schools have yet to receive it. Once we do - we will communicate any changes.

Back to School Response Guide -

<http://www.mca.k12.pa.us/wp/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/mca-version-back-to-school-covid-guidance-dec.pdf>

CDC Website -

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s1227-isolation-quarantine-guidance.html>

We will get through this pandemic together. Our district truly appreciates the support of our students, staff, and families.

Pete Cheddar

