



SUMMIT ACADEMY

150 Stahl Road, Getzville, New York 14068 • (716) 629-3400 • FAX (716) 629-3497

Summit Academy Parent Letter – Covid-19 Testing

November 18, 2020

Dear Summit Parents/Caregivers:

As announced on November 18 by Governor Cuomo, Summit Academy's Stahl Road and Creekside locations are operating within a designated "Orange Zone" for Covid-19. As a result, our school buildings will close as of Monday, November 23, and we will move to virtual instruction. This letter contains important information, please review it carefully.

While in a designated orange (or red) zone, in order to reopen for in-person learning, all in-person staff and students must be tested and receive a negative result. Those who refuse testing must continue with virtual learning only. After an initial round of testing, a sample of 25% of staff and students must be tested on a weekly basis. A new sample of unique students and staff must be tested each week. If tests yield a school infection rate of 3% or more than 9 cases, in-person learning will again be suspended.

While in an orange or red zone, Summit will decide on a week-to-week basis if in-person learning can occur based on the testing results and the number of staff available to work in the building.

About testing

Like many schools in Erie County, we are developing a process for testing our on-site staff and students at Summit Academy. We are as working to acquire the necessary Limited Service Laboratory (LSL) certificate which would allow our school nurses, or other contracted personnel, to administer the free BiNax test which will be provided by New York State. The test is simple and quick, using a short nasal swab, and offers results in 15 minutes. Here's a link to a demo of the test: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vj6MvFudW6M>. We are also investigating the possibility of using a cheek swab.

In either case, we hope to administer the test at school. In the event of a positive test, you would be notified, and we would follow the protocols outlined in our reopening plan.

Over the next several months, Covid-19 testing will likely become a fact of life for our staff and students if we want to continue in-person learning. We are determining how to randomize our testing and adhere to all the required guidance. Please know that we cannot test your child without your written consent. A Covid-19 Testing Consent Form is enclosed. Please review it, indicate your choice, and return it to us as quickly as possible in the enclosed stamped envelope. Your prompt attention to this is greatly appreciated.

Additional information about testing requirements within the various zone designations is available on our website at www.TheSummitCenter.org.

I know that these are challenging times for you and your family. We are working very hard to keep our doors open for in-person learning and appreciate your support and understanding.

If you have any questions, please call your child's Unit Director.

Sincerely,

Susan Whittaker

Susan Whittaker, Ed.D, SBL
Summit Academy Principal