



Parent Q&A About Covid-19 Testing at Summit Academy

Summit Academy is preparing to return to hybrid, in-person instruction on Monday, January 4. As part of our preparation, we have developed a plan to test our staff and students for Covid-19 to comply with NYSED requirements. Following are answers to some of the questions you may have.

How will students be chosen for testing?

Students with testing consent will be selected randomly and assigned to an appointment time by the Testing Coordinator.

Will I be notified in advance that my child has been chosen for testing?

No. Parents will not be notified in advance. The number of children tested on a given day will be dependent on how successful we are in administering tests to students within a given time period.

Who will administer the test?

Summit Academy nurses will complete the required training and administer the test at both Summit Central and Creekside. Our School Physician, Dr. Ted Andrews, will serve as our Medical Director for the testing process and will authorize the tests and train all staff involved in the testing process

Which test will be administered?

We will administer the BinaxNOW™ Covid-19 test which detects active coronavirus infections and provides results within 15 minutes. The test involves carefully inserting (less than 1”) and gently rotating the swab 5 times in each nostril. If a student demonstrates significant active resistance to testing, we will immediately stop the test and return the student to their classroom. Summit is continuing to pursue the use of a cheek-swab test, but those kits are currently not available for us.

When will testing occur?

Initial testing will be performed during the school day beginning the week of January 4. Thereafter we will be testing a sample of students each week.

How will I be notified of my child’s test results?

A letter with your child’s test results will be sent home in your child’s backpack. If you child tests positive, we will call you immediately to pick up your child from school. A staff member will wait with your child in our designated Covid-19 isolation room.

What if my child resists testing?

We will not perform a test on a student who shows any signs of significant active resistance. Any student who resists testing may remain in school.

Must I provide consent for my child to be tested?

We will not test a student without parent consent. Because we expect testing to be a fact of life for the foreseeable future, we encourage parents to consent to testing. This will give us a larger pool of students to test from. We hope to avoid re-testing the same students unless it’s absolutely necessary.

What if I do not consent to testing? Will my child be excluded from in-person instruction?

You are not required to consent to testing. If you choose not to consent, your child may continue to attend school in-person. (Note that this is a change from previous NYS guidance that required 100% of students to be tested in an orange and red zone.)

How many staff and students will be tested?

The number of staff and students tested are determined by NYS's zone designations as follows:

Yellow: Schools open for in-person instruction in yellow must test 20% of in-person students, faculty and staff over the two-week period immediately following the announcement of a yellow zone designation.

If testing results reveal that the positivity rate among the 20% of those tested is lower than the yellow zone's current 7-day positivity rate, testing at the school will no longer be required to continue.

Orange: For schools located in a geographic area designated as an Orange Zone, a random sample of a total of 20% of in-person students, faculty and staff must be tested for COVID-19 over the one -month period following the zone designation.

- The numbers tested should be proportionately spread across the month with 10% the maximum/minimum to be tested biweekly.

Red: For schools located in a geographic area designated as a Red Zone, a random sample of a total of 30% of in person students, faculty and staff must be tested for COVID-19 over the one -month period following the zone designation.

- The numbers tested should be proportionately spread across the month with 15% the maximum/minimum to be tested biweekly.

Where will the test be administered?

Tests will be administered at both our Summit Central and Creekside locations. Tests will be administered in a designated testing room, not in the nurses' office.

Can I accompany my child to the test?

No. As a safety precaution, during the pandemic we have not allowed parents or visitors into our buildings. A familiar staff person will accompany your child to the test room and remain with your child for the few minutes it will take to administer the test. To reiterate, if a student indicates any kind of active resistance, we will immediately stop the test and return the student to their classroom. Resistance to the test will not preclude your child from in-person instruction.

Will staff and faculty be tested?

Yes. A random sample of staff will be tested initially and each week proportional to the requirements for students.