



April 23, 2021

Dear Summit Academy Parents and Caregivers,

We continue to be concerned about the high transmission rate of COVID-19 in our community – particularly among children.

Yesterday, test data from the Erie County Department of Health showed that the highest COVID-19 positivity rates last week were in children. In fact, all school age children positivity rates were at or above 10% for those tested, with the 14-17 age group testing at 13.4%. As you'll see in the chart below, children ages 17 and younger accounted for 45% of positive cases.

Erie County COVID-19 Confirmed Cases
Diagnostic Testing* Positivity Rates by Age Group

Age Group	Week Ending 4/17/2021		
	Cases	Diagnostic Tests	% Pos
0 to 4	101	1,088	9.3%
5 to 10	183	1,839	10.0%
11 to 13	118	959	12.3%
14 to 17	265	1,976	13.4%
18 to 22	354	7,997	4.4%
23 to 29	522	7,808	6.7%
30 to 39	556	8,739	6.4%
40 to 49	430	6,748	6.4%
50 to 59	416	7,850	5.3%
60 to 69	234	6,011	3.9%
70 to 79	82	3,104	2.6%
80+	45	3,624	1.2%
Unk	0	802	0.0%
Total	3,306	58,545	5.6%

*Does not include all SUNY surveillance tests

At Summit Academy, we have seen an increasing number of students who are out on quarantine due to *exposure to a positive case of COVID-19 at home or because they have tested positive.*

For these reasons, we are imploring you to keep your child home if they are sick. This includes diarrhea, cough, congestion, fever, vomiting. If your child comes to school with ANY of these symptoms, they will be sent home and a doctor's note will be required before they may return. As a point of reference, we continue to have a steady flow of children coming to school sick and are sending home 15-20 students per week because they are ill.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated as we try to keep our school environment safe and healthy for all our students and our staff. For additional information about Covid-19 in children and teens, [click here](#). For Summit Academy's Guidelines with details about when your child may return to school following an illness, [click here](#).

On a positive note, I'm very happy to report that almost half of our students who are eligible have been fully/partially vaccinated. Thank YOU for doing your part to provide this critical level of protection for your child, your child's classmates, and our staff. All children, ages 16 and up, are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccine is free. Appointments are easily available – including "day of" options – at some locations. Vaccinehound.org provides appointment availability at local government, healthcare, and pharmacy locations throughout Western New York.

As a reminder, Summit Academy's 2021-22 calendar is now available. You may review it [here](#). Please note that for the 2021-22 school year, virtual services will be provided in the event of any emergency closing day – this includes our traditional snow days.

We will continue to keep you informed and appreciate your continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan".

Susan Whittaker, Ed.D, SBL
Summit Academy Principal