



January 29, 2021

Dear Summit parents and caregivers,

Following is an update on Covid-19 Testing at Summit Academy for the week ending Friday, January 29. This week we tested a random sample of staff. **All tests within our sample were negative.** Because we met our 10% biweekly quota for students last week, no student testing was needed this week.

	<i>Summit Central</i>	<i>Creekside</i>
<i>Staff</i>	16	2
<i>Students</i>	0	0

As you may know, on Wednesday, January 27, Governor Cuomo removed micro zone cluster restrictions for Erie and Niagara counties. As a result, on-going Covid-19 testing is no longer required. We are considering the possibility of continued testing among our staff but have not yet come to a decision. I will keep you informed.

On a related note, outside of our random testing, we had six positive cases of Covid-19 since January 22. Families of students directly impacted were contacted and all health and safety protocols followed. These positive cases resulted in mandatory quarantine of more than 20 staff and some students. So, although we may not be in a “zone,” we are not out of the woods. We do believe that in the coming months, as more people are vaccinated against Covid-19, the positive cases will decrease, and we can return to in-person instruction five days per week. Unfortunately, due to on-going staffing shortages related to Covid-19, it simply isn’t possible.

On a positive note, our speech, occupational, and physical therapists are returning to school to provide in-person services. Services will resume on a phased-in manner beginning with our preschool classrooms and systematically working our way through the school. We are identifying private offices throughout our building where these services can be provided one-on-one to limit therapists travelling from room to room. At this time, therapists will only be allowed to visit two classrooms on any given day.

As a reminder, please keep your child home from school if they aren’t feeling well. And, please abide by NYS’s quarantine/testing requirements if you travel out of state. You can find those requirements [here](#). We would appreciate it if families would share travel plans with us so that we can monitor students who require quarantine. Our main goal is safety. With your cooperation we can lessen the spread of Covid-19 and protect the health of our staff and students.

Sincerely,

Susan

Susan Whittaker, Ed.D, SBL
Summit Academy Principal