

September 6, 2022

Dear Summit Academy Parents/Guardians,

As we prepare for the start of school on Wednesday, September 7, I want to share the current Covid-19 health and safety guidelines from the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and the New York State Education Department (NYSED).

### **Symptomatic Individuals**

- Any individual, regardless of vaccination status, who has symptoms of respiratory or gastrointestinal infections, such as cough, fever, sore throat, vomiting, or diarrhea will be sent home from school or directed to stay home.
  - Testing is recommended as soon as possible.
  - Symptomatic individuals who choose not to test, will need to stay home for at least 5 days and may return to school provided they are fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication.
  - A symptomatic individual who tests negative on a COVID-19 test, including an at-home test, may return to school provided they are fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication.

### **COVID-19 Positive Individuals & Isolation**

- Any individual who tests positive, regardless of vaccination status, needs to isolate for a minimum of 5 days and follow [CDC isolation guidance](#).
- An individual who is positive may return to school on day 6 *if their symptoms are improving and they are fever free for at least 24 hours without the aid of fever reducing medication*.
  - Please note, a negative test is not required to come out of isolation.
  - If able, an individual who is positive must wear a mask while indoors when they return to school on days 6 – 10. If the individual provides proof of two sequential negative antigen/rapid tests at least 48 hours apart, they will not need to continue masking until day 10. *Any child who cannot wear a mask*, may return to school on days 6-10 if their symptoms are improving and they are fever free for at least 24 hours without the aid of fever reducing medication.
  - *Staff* who are positive for Covid-19 **MUST** wear a mask on Days 6-10 when they return to work.

### **Exposure and Notification**

- If an individual has exposure to a person who is positive for Covid-19, parents/guardian will be notified. Close Contact/Exposure is defined as someone who was less than 6 feet away from an infected person (laboratory-confirmed or a clinical diagnosis) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (for example, three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes).
- Regardless of vaccination status, individuals who are exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual do not need to quarantine and **are not** excluded from school, unless they develop symptoms.

### **Testing Following COVID-19 Exposure**

- Regardless of vaccination status or history of prior COVID-19 infection, the CDC recommends testing on or after day 5 of their last known exposure or sooner if symptoms develop.

### **Masking Following COVID-19 Exposure**

- The CDC recommends that those exposed to COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status or history of prior COVID-19 infection, wear a well-fitting mask for 10 days in public, indoor settings, including indoors at school. A student who is unable to wear a mask will not be excluded from school.

The information above is subject to change based on updates provided by the NYSDOH and NYSED.

Please be advised that in addition to Covid-19 protocols, Summit Academy's Health Policy is still in effect. If your child exhibits any symptoms of Covid-19, or any signs of illness as outlined in our Health Policy, you will be called to pick up your child from school.

We greatly appreciate your cooperation as we head into the new school year.

Sincerely,

*Mary Bennett*

Mary Bennett, M.S.Ed., SBL, SDL  
Principal, Summit Academy