



SUMMIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Board of Education -14 Beekman Terrace- Summit - New Jersey 07901-1702 (908) 273-3023

Mr. Scott Hough, Superintendent of Schools

August 27, 2021

Dear Summit Public Schools Community,

I hope you and your loved ones are healthy and well. As we approach the beginning of the school year, I wanted to communicate some recent updates from the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) as well as an update with our COVID-19 communications.

Updated Guidance

The NJDOH updated their guidance for schools and included highlighted additions in [The Road Forward](#). One of the key updates in the document was an exception in the contact tracing process:

- In the K–12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) where both the infected student and the exposed student(s) **correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time**. This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.

This update could mean fewer students deemed as close contacts in the classroom setting, provided masks are worn consistently and correctly. This update, and any others, will be reflected in our Back to School plan. Please continue to check our [COVID-19 Dashboard](#) for updates as they become available.

COVID-19 Activity Level

Please be aware that the Central East region is currently in the high (orange) activity level. In this level, unvaccinated close contacts are required to quarantine for 14 days and cannot test out of the quarantine period. If our region goes back to a moderate (yellow) or low (green) activity level, unvaccinated close contacts must quarantine for 10 days, or 7 days with negative test results collected at 5-7 days. To view the weekly reports from the NJDOH, please [follow this link](#). As mentioned above, we will keep this information updated on our COVID-19 Dashboard.

COVID-19 Notification/Communication

This school year, if an individual in the District tests positive for COVID-19, we will promptly update our COVID-19 Dashboard. We will not be sending out a District-wide notification. Rest assured, those who are identified as a close contact will be notified and required to quarantine if unvaccinated, in accordance with NJDOH guidance. Even if a potential close contact is vaccinated, a school nurse/administrator will contact the individual to notify them that they were potentially exposed to COVID-19. The vaccinated individual will not be required to quarantine, but should monitor for symptoms. To report a positive COVID-19 test, please continue to email the building principal and nurse, and add covidreporting@summit.k12.nj.us when reporting after school hours. To check the amount of active cases in the District, please check the Dashboard, which will be updated regularly.

As we have learned and continue to experience, things can change quickly and often. Thank you in advance for your flexibility and understanding. Have a great weekend and I look forward to welcoming everyone on the first day of school on Monday!

Be well,

Scott Hough
Superintendent of Schools