

**The following information was received by the NYS Center for School Health on 11/27/20**

**Updated Micro-Cluster Focus Zones Going into Effect for Schools on 11/26 and Extension of Testing Timeframe for Schools located in Yellow Zones From the NYSDOH Education Constituents Team (11/25/20)  
SchoolQuestionsCovid@health.ny.gov**

**From:** health.sm.EducationConstituents <EducationConstituents@health.ny.gov>

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 25, 2020 4:14 PM

**Subject:** Updated Micro-Cluster Focus Zones Going into Effect for Schools on 11/26 and Extension of Testing Timeframe for Schools located in Yellow Zones

Hello,

Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday, schools in newly designated yellow zones that went into effect as on Monday November 23<sup>rd</sup> have been granted an extension to meet the requirement of testing 20% of onsite students teachers and staff - until **December 9<sup>th</sup>**. Please note this is only applicable to schools announced within Yellow Zones during the timeframe noted above.

Additionally, please be advised that in accordance with the New York State “micro-cluster” approach, new zones and modifications to current zones have been announced and will go into effect on Thursday, November 26<sup>th</sup> for schools (per the maps below). Schools in newly designated zones that go into effect on Thursday November 26<sup>th</sup> **will have a testing deadline of December 12<sup>th</sup>**. These changes in zones are indicated below:

**Modifications to Current Focus Zones**

**Staten Island - Parts of Staten Island Move to Orange Warning Zone - Click [Here](#) for Map**

Parts of Staten Island will transition to an orange warning zone based on increasing 7-day positivity rates, number of cases, and hospitalizations that meet the metrics for orange warning zone designation. The remainder of the borough will remain in a yellow precautionary zone.

**New Focus Zones**

**Manhattan - New Yellow Precautionary Zone - Click [Here](#) for Map**

A new yellow zone will be established in the Washington Heights area, after meeting the metrics for yellow precautionary zone designation including on increasing 7-day positivity rates, number of cases, and hospitalizations.

**Monroe County - Click [Here](#) for Map**

The City of Rochester and surrounding areas will transition to an orange zone after meeting the positivity, new cases, and hospitalizations metrics for orange zone designation. The rest of the existing yellow zone will remain a Precautionary yellow zone.

**Nassau County - Links to Maps Below**

Yellow Precautionary zones will be established in and around [Great Neck](#) and [Massapequa Park](#), after both areas have seen sustained positivity, new case rates, and hospitalizations that meet the metrics for yellow precautionary zone designation.

**Onondaga County - Click [Here](#) for Map**

The City of Syracuse and surrounding areas will transition to an orange precautionary zone after seeing continued increases in positivity and number of cases, as well as hospitalizations. The existing yellow zone will remain a yellow precautionary zone, and parts of it will be expanded.

**Suffolk County - Links to Maps Below**

Parts of Suffolk County including [Hampton Bays](#) and [Riverhead](#) will be designated as Precautionary Yellow Zones after meeting the positivity, new cases, and new hospitalization metrics for yellow zone designation. As you know, in order to monitor which schools are located in each zone (Red, Orange, and Yellow), the COVID-19 Report Card displays the zone each school is located in – if applicable – directly on the dashboard. Additionally, the information will display upon logging in to the survey as well. Maps can be accessed at the following link: <https://forward.ny.gov/>.

For additional information on reporting and testing requirements for schools located within Yellow Zones, please refer to our guidance [documents \*Interim Guidance on Mandatory COVID-19 Testing in Public and Non-Public Schools Located in Areas Designated as “Yellow Zones” Under the New York State Cluster Action Initiative\*](#) and [Additional Addendum to Interim Guidance on Mandatory COVID-19 Testing in Public and Non-Public Schools Located in Areas Designated as “Yellow Zones” Under the New York State Cluster Action Initiative](#).

Thank you and Happy Thanksgiving!  
The Education Constituents Team  
[educationconstituents@health.ny.gov](mailto:educationconstituents@health.ny.gov)