



Waterloo Central School District

Frequently asked questions: Yellow Zone

How is a Yellow Zone Determined?

Our area is designated a yellow micro-cluster zone when part of a geographic area has:

Wayne/Ontario/Cayuga: a seven-day rolling average positivity above 3.5% for 10 days AND has 15 or more new daily cases per 100,000 residents on a seven-day average.

Seneca/Yates: a seven-day rolling average positivity above 4% for 10 days AND has 15 or more new daily cases per 100,000 residents on a seven-day average.

Additional factors for entering the Yellow Zone include a geographic area having a minimum of five new cases per day on a seven-day average, and the increase in positivity rates reflecting community spread.

What are the implications of the Yellow Zone Designation?

Stricter restrictions are imposed when an area is designated as a Yellow Zone micro-cluster. The restrictions include the following:

- **Schools:** Open with mandatory 20% testing (shallow nasal swab) of students and staff for in-person settings (fully remote students are exempt)
- **Mass Gatherings:** 25 people maximum, indoor and outdoor
- **Businesses:** Open
- **Dining:** Indoor and outdoor dining, four person maximum per table

What is the impact to my District if we are determined to be located in a Yellow Zone?

If our District falls in a Yellow Zone, we will need to complete the mandatory 20% testing over a designated two-week period following the announcement of the Yellow Zone. If Districts cannot meet this mandate they will need to transition to virtual learning for all students.

Where can I find additional information regarding the Micro-Cluster Zones?

Additional information regarding the Governor's Micro-Cluster Metrics can be found on the State website [HERE](#).

COVID-19 Testing by Districts

What individuals need to participate in testing?

Students participating in in-person instruction, as well as staff reporting to the District, are considered to be part of the COVID-19 testing pool. Fully remote students are exempt from testing.

What is the percentage of in-person students, faculty and staff that must be tested to remain open?

Schools in yellow zones must test 20% of in-person students and staff over the two-week period immediately following the announcement of a yellow zone designation. If the results of the testing reveal that the positivity rate among the 20% of those tested is lower than the yellow zone's current seven-day positivity rate, testing at that school will no longer be required to continue. A positivity rate in a school that is lower than in the yellow zone is a sufficient demonstration that in-person instruction is not a significant driver of local viral spread. The current positivity rate for zones can be found at, <https://forward.ny.gov/percentage-positive-results-county-dashboard>.

What are the ramifications if we do not get to 20% tested over the course of two weeks?

If the District cannot meet the mandate of the 20% testing requirement, Districts will need to transition to full remote learning for all students.

What is Rapid COVID-19 Testing?

Point-of-Care (POC) tests are a form of rapid tests used for diagnosing an infectious disease. POC tests provide results within minutes of being administered, allowing for rapid decisions about patient care. The test being used in NYS Schools is a nasal swab performed by certified personnel (with necessary laboratory permits). The tests will be provided to the District by the Department of Health. The test to be administered in schools differs from deep nasal swabs which are most frequently used in our area. The new rapid COVID-19 test to be given in schools is less invasive and involves a quick swab inside the lower part of the nose.

If you have not consented to a test, your child will not be tested. Those refusing to consent to a test will NOT be excluded from school or required to be remote learners. Although we hope that most, if not all, students will participate, this will not be required. If, however, we cannot meet the 20% testing mandate, all students will move to remote learning.

How will it be determined what students and staff will be tested?

The District will randomly sample from throughout the list of those who have consented to testing. We will rotate through buildings and be as efficient as possible in the testing of students.

If we are designated a yellow zone, when will testing begin?

If our District is designated in a yellow zone, testing will begin as soon as the District is able to coordinate a response and gather resources from our Department of Health. We anticipate we will be ready to complete testing by November 30, 2020 if needed.

Who will administer the testing?

Our District Administrative Team and our School Nurses are being trained to administer testing on November 24, 2020. It is recommended that testing occur with two person teams. One person will administer the test, the other person inputs the data into a spreadsheet which is then sent to the Seneca County Health Department within 24 hours of the testing.

How do I consent to testing for my child/children?

The District will provide consent forms to the family of each student. As a proactive measure, the District will be sending consent forms to families by **November 24, 2020**. Signed consent forms must be returned to the District by **November 30, 2020**. The District will only enact a program to test children if the school is designated at the yellow-risk level. Notice will be provided to families and staff if the District is so designated.