

Addendum to the Back Onsite Plan

Focus Zones: The École Action Plan



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Focus Zones: The École Action Plan

1. Identifying and Implementing Focus Zone

Daily data monitoring enables the State to identify areas that are experiencing a concerning increase in COVID spread. Once an area meets certain metrics - detailed below - that demonstrate substantial COVID spread, it may be designated a focus zone: a Red "Micro-Cluster Zone" (with accompanying Orange and/or Yellow buffer zones) or an Orange Warning Zone (with potential for accompanying Yellow Buffer Zone) or solely a Yellow Precautionary Zone. In densely populated urban areas, two buffer zones - an Orange Buffer Zone and a Yellow Buffer Zone may be required.

- **Red Zone – Micro-Cluster**

A "Red Zone" focus area is put in place to contain spread from a specific, defined geographic area.

- **Orange Zone – Warning/Buffer**

An Orange Zone area either is put in place primarily in densely populated urban areas as a tight buffer zone around a Red Zone micro-cluster ("Orange Buffer Zone") area OR is implemented independently as a focus area based on the below metrics ("Orange Warning Zone").

The purpose of an Orange Buffer Zone is to:

- 1) restrict activity to prevent further spread from Red Zone area
- 2) provide a defined geographic area where metrics can be monitored daily to ensure COVID is not spreading beyond the Red Zone.

- **Yellow Zone – Precautionary/Buffer**

A "Yellow Zone" area either is put in place as a broader buffer area to ensure COVID outbreak is not spreading into the broader community ("Yellow Buffer Zone") OR is implemented independently based on the below metrics ("Yellow Precautionary Zone").

The purpose of a Yellow Buffer Zone is to:

- 1) restrict some activity to help prevent further spread from Red and/or Orange Warning Zone area
- 2) provide a larger defined geographic area where metrics can be monitored daily to ensure COVID is not spreading beyond the Red Zone or Orange Warning Zone.

See below for an up-to-date cluster zones list:

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-details-covid-19-micro-cluster-metrics>

2. Triggers for New York City Boroughs

Entering Yellow Precautionary Zone	Entering Orange Warning Zone	Entering Red Micro Cluster Zone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7-day rolling average positivity above 2.5% for 10 days AND 10 or more new daily cases per 100,000 residents on 7-day average 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7-day rolling average positivity above 3% for 10 days AND 10 or more new daily cases per 100,000 residents on 7-day average 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7-day rolling average positivity above 4% for 10 days AND 10 or more new daily cases per 100,000 residents on 7-day average
Additional factors for entering all Zones for New York City boroughs		
<p>AND minimum of 5 new cases per day on 7-day average AND The increase in positive cases or positivity reflect community spread and cannot be mostly explained by a cluster in a single institution (e.g. nursing home, factory, college, etc.) or household transmission AND The State Department of Health (DOH), in consultation with the local department of health, finds that based on the above listed metrics, and other epidemiological factors, such as an upward trend in total and daily hospital admissions from residents of this geographic area, that a zone designation is appropriate.</p>		

See below for full details on these metrics:

https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/MicroCluster_Metrics_10.21.20_FINAL.pdf

3. What will happen if our area becomes a Yellow Zone?

What is required by New York State?

- Schools remain open
- Schools are requested to run a **first test of 20%** minimum of in-person students, faculty and staff
- 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 7-day positivity rate, **Schools will no longer be required to continue testing**
- If the results of the testing over the first two weeks reveal that the **positivity rate** among in-person student, staff and faculty is **higher** than the Yellow Zone's current 7-day positivity rate, Schools will be asked to **continue to test on a bi-weekly basis 20% of the in-person population**

What The École will do: going beyond the NYS guidelines

- The École will remain open and continue to offer onsite and remote teaching
- The École will continue to **test weekly 25%** of in- person students, faculty and staff for COVID-19, in each Campus:
 - At least 1 adult by grade level and 25% of students
 - The École will provide tests and certified personnel (with necessary laboratory permits) to do the tests
 - Each week the 25% of the school population tested will be composed of unique individuals who have not previously been tested for the surveillance screening, as part of the weekly 25% testing until the fifth week of weekly testing at which point the individuals who participated in the first week of testing should be tested again.
 - The École will provide the tests and the certified personnel (with necessary laboratory permits) to do the tests
 - All results will be entered into ECLRS and reported on the school survey to the NYS COVID-19 Report Card
- Even if the results of the testing reveal that the positivity rate among the 25% of those tested is lower than the Yellow Zone's current 7-day positivity rate, the **25% weekly testing at The École will continue**
- If the random sampling generates 9 cases or more* on a specific Campus, then The École will close this specific Campus and switch to full remote learning after one day
**DOH rules regarding number of positive cases and partial or full closure of the school might supersede this rule.*
- The École will continue its vigilant symptom and exposure daily screening and will adhere to its **Back Onsite Plan**:
 - Members of The École community who test positive will have to isolate, according to the DOH guidance
 - Contact tracing will be performed to ensure that contacts to newly identified positive individuals are quarantined: this includes their household members if the individual cannot be isolated
 - Individuals who are positive or close contacts (including their household members if individual cannot be isolated) of a positive case won't be authorized to enter our Campuses without a quarantine and a negative test

4. What will happen if our area becomes an Orange or a Red Zone?

What is required by New York State?

- There is no longer a requirement for schools located in orange or red zone to close to in-person instruction
- Over the **one-month period** following the zone designation:
 - If **Orange Zone**: Schools have to **test 20% in one month** of in-person students, faculty and staff for COVID-19.
 - If **Red Zone**: Schools have to **test 30% in one month** of in-person students, faculty and staff for COVID-19.
- The numbers of individuals tested have to be proportionately spread across the month with 10% (orange) or 15% (red) to be tested biweekly
- If the random sampling generates 9 cases or more, then Schools will close

What The École will do: going beyond the NYS guidelines

The École will go beyond the random testing guidance (as described above) and may remain open for in-person instruction, subject to any other directives issued by DOH.

- The École will remain open and continue to offer onsite and remote teaching
- The École will continue **test weekly 25% (i.e. 100% in one month)** of in-person students, faculty and staff for COVID-19, in each Campus:
 - At least 1 adult by grade level and 25% of students
 - The numbers of individuals tested will be de facto proportionately spread across the month
 - The École will provide tests and certified personnel (with necessary laboratory permits) to do the tests.
 - Each week the 25% of the school population tested will be composed of unique individuals who have not previously been tested for the surveillance screening, as part of the weekly 25% testing until the fifth week of weekly testing at which point the individuals who participated in the first week of testing should be tested again.
 - The École will provide the tests and the certified personnel (with necessary laboratory permits) to do the tests
 - All results will be entered into ECLRS and reported on the school survey to the NYS COVID-19 Report Card
- If the random sampling generates 9 cases or more* on a specific Campus, then The École will close this specific Campus and switch to full remote learning after one day
**DOH rules regarding number of positive cases and partial or full closure of the school might supersede this rule.*
- The École will continue its vigilant symptom and exposure daily screening and will adhere to its **Back Onsite Plan**:
 - Members of The École community who test positive will have to isolate, according to the DOH guidance
 - Contact tracing will be performed to ensure that contacts to newly identified positive individuals are quarantined: this includes their household members if the individual can not be isolated
 - Individuals who are positive or close contacts (including their household members if individual cannot be isolated) of a positive case won't be authorized to enter our Campuses without a quarantine and a negative test