

Updated HASC Reopening Plan – December 2020

As of December 4, 2020

For Schools Located in a Geographic Area Designated as a Red or Orange Zone

School age programs (**14th Avenue site**) and PreK programs located in a school building (**Remsen Avenue & Woodmere sites**).

There is no longer a requirement for schools located in red or orange zones to close to inperson instruction. Schools in these zones may remain open for in-person instruction, subject to strict adherence to this guidance and any directives issued by DOH.

Schools in red and orange zones must complete an attestation on the school survey, in addition to required dashboard reporting, that the school is complying with the testing requirements below.

Schools in an **Orange Zone**

For schools located in a geographic area designated as an Orange Zone, a total of 20% of inperson students, faculty and staff must be tested for COVID-19 over the one month period following the zone designation. The numbers tested should be proportionately spread across the month with 10% the maximum/minimum to be tested biweekly.

Schools in a **Red Zone**

For schools located in a geographic area designated as a Red Zone, a total of 30% of in person students, faculty and staff must be tested for COVID-19 over the one month period following the zone designation. The numbers tested should be proportionately spread across the month with 15% the maximum/minimum to be tested biweekly.

Schools in either an **Orange or Red Zone**

If the random sampling generates 9 or more positive cases in any school, or if for a sample size of more than 300 weekly tests, achieves a positivity rate of 2% or higher (6 cases or more depending on sample size) in New York City, or 3% (9 or more cases depending on sample size) outside of New York City, of one such discrete sample, then the school will be required to close.

In addition, all schools in orange or red zones are required to continue to adhere to all existing State-issued requirements, including completion of the daily school survey. Schools must also:

- Ensure face coverings are worn by students, faculty, and staff, in accordance with Department of Health's (DOH) Interim Guidance for In-Person Instruction at Pre-K to Grade 12 Schools, particularly since orange and red zones reflect higher rates of COVID-19 community infection, or any local department of health order regarding the use of face coverings in this setting. o Face coverings provide protection to the wearers and individuals around wearers by placing an effective barrier over the nose and mouth that prevents spread of COVID-19 through respiratory droplets. The use of face coverings is particularly important when social distancing of at least six feet is unable to be maintained as close contact remains the main method of transmission, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

- The school should ensure that it provides the opportunity to be tested on school grounds, or otherwise support testing and/or accept test results from healthcare providers. o If the school does not hold a testing event or provide on grounds testing, test results provided to the school must be received within 7 days from the date of specimen collection and specimen collection must be after the date that geographic area in which the school is located was designated an orange or red zone. o If at any point the geographic area in which the school is located is designated as a yellow zone, the yellow zone biweekly testing requirement of 20% of the inperson population (i.e., students, faculty and staff) applies immediately, and such school shall only be required to test 20% beginning that week, in accordance with DOH’s 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.

Schools in **YELLOW ZONE**

Effective the week of November 16, 2020

Schools in yellow zones must test 20% of in-person students, faculty 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 7-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>. However, 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, the school will be required to continue to test 20% of the in-person population on a bi-weekly basis. NYSDOH is amending the existing yellow zone testing requirement due to continued review of positivity rates within school settings.

To institute testing, schools may do any of the following:

- Send students and employees to local testing sites. Visit the NYC COVID-19 Testing page at nyc.gov/covidtest to find a testing site, many of which offer free testing.
- Partner with a vendor or health care provider that can collect appropriate specimens and send to a certified laboratory.
- Partner with a vendor or health care provider that can collect and perform rapid testing using a NYS-supplied testing kit ordered from the City. This can include a school’s own school nurse or medical staff if they are CLIA-certified. If we partner with vendor, your child must have a consent form to be tested on file, including medical insurance information.