



# COVID-19 TESTING AND VACCINE UPDATES FOR SCHOOLS

NYS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

JANUARY 20, 2021



# COVID TESTING REQUIREMENTS BY ZONE

## RED ZONE

1.5% OF TOTAL STUDENT/STAFF IN-PERSON POPULATION TESTED EVERY 2 WEEKS

TOTAL OF 30% OVER ONE MONTH

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.

## ORANGE ZONE

10% OF TOTAL STUDENT/STAFF IN PERSON POPULATION TESTED EVERY 2 WEEKS

TOTAL OF 20% OVER ONE MONTH

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.

## YELLOW ZONE

SCHOOLS IN YELLOW ZONES MUST TEST 20% OF IN-PERSON STUDENTS/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**. THE CURRENT POSITIVITY RATE FOR ZONES CAN BE FOUND AT, [HTTPS://FORWARD.NY.GOV/PERCENTAGE-POSITIVE-RESULTS-COUNTY-DASHBOARD](https://forward.ny.gov/percentage-positive-results-county-dashboard).

# COVID-19 TESTING IN SCHOOLS

- SCHOOLS CAN CONTRACT WITH A LABORATORY OR HEALTHCARE FACILITY TO CONDUCT COVID-19 TESTING OF STUDENTS AND STAFF MEMBERS ATTENDING/TEACHING IN PERSON.
- SCHOOLS MUST HAVE THE WRITTEN CONSENT OF PARENTS/GUARDIANS TO CONDUCT TESTS ON STUDENTS AT SCHOOL, OR FOR A CONTRACTOR TO DO SO.
- SCHOOLS DOING THEIR OWN TESTING MUST HAVE A LIMITED LABORATORY CERTIFICATE, AND APPROPRIATE PPE REQUIRED FOR SCHOOL HEALTH PERSONNEL CONDUCTING COVID-19 TESTS, AND STAFF ARE TRAINED TO CONDUCT SUCH TESTS.
- TESTS CONDUCTED BY A SCHOOL MUST BE REPORTED ON ECLRS:

[HTTPS://WWW.HEALTH.NY.GOV/PROFESSIONALS/REPORTABLE\\_DISEASES/ECLRS/](https://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/reportable_diseases/eclrs/)



# COVID-19 TESTING CONTACT INFORMATION

- QUESTIONS ON TESTING CAN BE DIRECTED TO THE NYSDOH AT [COVID19RAPIDTEST@HEALTH.NY.GOV](mailto:COVID19RAPIDTEST@HEALTH.NY.GOV)
- QUESTIONS ON OBTAINING LIMITED SERVICE LAB CERTIFICATES CAN BE DIRECTED TO THE NYSODH CLINICAL LABORATORY EVALUATION PROGRAM (518) 485-5378 OR [CLEP@HEALTH.NY.GOV](mailto:CLEP@HEALTH.NY.GOV)



# COVID-19 TESTING RESOURCES

- [GUIDANCE FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS ABOUT COVID-19 \(SARS-COV-2\) TESTING | CDC](#)
- [NYS CENTER FOR SCHOOL HEALTH- COVID-19 TESTING AND RESOURCES](#)

# COVID-19 VACCINES

- ELIGIBILITY FOR THE VACCINE IS DETERMINED BY NYSDOH. PLEASE SEE THEIR WEBSITE FOR UP TO DATE INFORMATION: [HTTPS://COVID19VACCINE.HEALTH.NY.GOV/PHASED-DISTRIBUTION-VACCINE#PHASE-1A---PHASE-1B](https://COVID19VACCINE.HEALTH.NY.GOV/PHASED-DISTRIBUTION-VACCINE#PHASE-1A---PHASE-1B)
- ELIGIBLE PERSONS MUST COMPLETE THE REQUIRED FORM: [HTTPS://FORMS.NY.GOV/S3/VACCINE](https://FORMS.NY.GOV/S3/VACCINE)
- BRING PROOF OF ELIGIBILITY TO YOUR APPOINTMENT. WHEN YOU GO TO YOUR VACCINATION SITE FOR YOUR APPOINTMENT, YOU MUST BRING PROOF OF ELIGIBILITY. THIS MAY INCLUDE AN EMPLOYEE ID CARD, A LETTER FROM AN EMPLOYER OR AFFILIATED ORGANIZATION, OR A PAY STUB, DEPENDING ON THE SPECIFIC PRIORITY STATUS. IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE DUE TO AGE, YOU SHOULD BRING A FORM OF ID (LIKE A DRIVER'S LICENSE OR PASSPORT) THAT INCLUDES YOUR DATE OF BIRTH. YOU WILL NEED TO COMPLETE A [CLINICAL QUESTIONNAIRE](#) FORM AT THE TIME OF YOUR APPOINTMENT.
- APPOINTMENTS FOR SECOND DOSES WILL BE MADE AT THE TIME OF THE FIRST APPOINTMENT.

# VACCINE CONSIDERATIONS

- STAFFING
- CONSENTS
- EQUIPMENT
- STORAGE
- DOCUMENTATION/REPORTING  
REQUIREMENTS
- EMERGENCY REACTION PLANNING



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# VACCINE CONSIDERATIONS

- **MODERNA VACCINE:** APPROVED FOR AGES 18 +. THAW THE VIALS FOR 2.5 HOURS IN A REFRIGERATOR SET BETWEEN 36 AND 46 DEGREES. THEN REST THEM AT ROOM TEMPERATURE FOR 15 MINUTES. DO NOT REFREEZE. SWIRL GENTLY BETWEEN EACH WITHDRAWAL. DO NOT SHAKE. INSPECT EACH VIAL FOR PARTICULATE MATTER OR DISCOLORATION. AND THEN THERE'S THIS: ONCE OPEN, A VIAL IS GOOD FOR ONLY SIX HOURS. THE SECOND DOSE IS GIVEN 28 DAYS AFTER THE FIRST. [MODERNA COVID-19 VACCINE INFORMATION | CDC](#)
- **PFIZER-BIONTECH'S VACCINE:** APPROVED FOR AGES 16+. MUST BE STORED IN SPECIALIZED FREEZERS AT 94 DEGREES BELOW ZERO. ONCE OUT OF THAT FREEZER IT MAY BE STORED ONLY 5 DAYS IN A REFRIGERATOR BETWEEN 35-46 DEGREES. VACCINE MUST BE DILUTED. ONCE THE VIAL IS OPEN IT IS GOOD FOR ONLY SIX HOURS. THE SECOND DOSE IS GIVEN 21 DAYS AFTER THE FIRST DOSE. [PFIZER-BIONTECH COVID-19 VACCINE INFORMATION | CDC](#)

[U.S. COVID-19 VACCINE PRODUCT INFORMATION | CDC](#)





# COVID-19 VACCINES

CONT'D.

- [HTTPS://CORONAVIRUS.HEALTH.NY.GOV/C  
OVID-19-VACCINATION-PROVIDER-  
STORAGE-AND-HANDLING](https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-vaccination-provider-storage-and-handling)
- [INFORMATION FOR HEALTHCARE  
PROVIDERS | DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
\(NY.GOV\)](#)
- [COVID-19 VACCINATION | CDC](#)
- QUESTIONS:  
[COVID19VACCINE@HEALTH.NY.GOV](mailto:COVID19VACCINE@HEALTH.NY.GOV)

# NYSED CONTACT INFORMATION

KAREN HOLLOWOOD

ANN LANOUE

[STUDENTSUPPORTSERVICES@NYSED.GOV](mailto:STUDENTSUPPORTSERVICES@NYSED.GOV)

518-486-6090

NYS CENTER FOR SCHOOL HEALTH

[NYSCSH@MONROE2BOCES.ORG](mailto:NYSCSH@MONROE2BOCES.ORG)

585-617-2380