



WANTAGH UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Superintendent of Schools

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John McNamara  
Superintendent

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Dear Wantagh Community,

For the past several weeks, we have continued to see the rise of COVID-19 cases across Nassau County. The positivity rate in recent days has been over 3% and the seven-day average for the positivity rate over the past week has been over 2.5%. As a result, the New York State Department of Health and Governor Cuomo will most likely designate parts of our region into Yellow Zones, Orange Zones or Red Zones in the coming days. These designations can have a significant impact on schools that can include required closures and required COVID-19 testing of students and staff. The zones are based on a 10-day rolling average of positive COVID-19 testing results in each specific geographic (zip code) area. The NYS Department of Health determines our status based on how our entire community is faring, not just the number of cases connected to our schools. At the present time, our area does not fall into any of the micro-cluster zones.

A summary of the impact that designation of an area as a zone has on schools and some additional links are below:

Yellow Zone	Orange Zone	Red Zone
<p>Geographic area has 7- day rolling average positive COVID-19 testing average above 2.5% for 10 days</p> <p>Schools can remain open with 20% testing of in-person students and staff within two weeks of the designation.</p>	<p>Geographic area has 7- day rolling average positive COVID-19 testing average above 3% for 10 days</p> <p>School buildings must close for at least four days. In order to reopen, ALL students, faculty, and staff must test negative before returning to campus. Following reopening, schools will be required to provide weekly testing results of 25% of the combined student, faculty, and staff population.</p>	<p>Geographic area has 7- day rolling average positive COVID-19 testing average above 4% for 10 days</p> <p>School buildings must close for at least four days. In order to reopen, ALL students, faculty, and staff must test negative before returning to campus. Following reopening, schools will be required to provide weekly testing results of 25% of the combined student, faculty, and staff population.</p>

[Micro Cluster Metrics](#)

[School Guidelines for Yellow, Orange and Red Zones](#)

Despite all of this, we have had great success limiting the spread of COVID-19 within our schools. Our schools are a safe place for our students and staff with all the precautions that we have put in place, such as cleaning and disinfecting protocols, mask wearing, social distancing, hand hygiene and using precautionary quarantines. To date, we have had a total of 17 positive COVID-19 cases, nine students and 8 staff members. I would like to thank our entire school community for the efforts that have been made to keep our students thriving in school.

The news of these potential designations is disappointing to all of us. I will continue to monitor this situation closely and will do everything possible to keep our students safely in school. As always, I will keep you updated as more information becomes available.

Sincerely,

John C. McNamara

Superintendent of Schools