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## Understanding a Yellow Zone Designation

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November 20, 2020

Dear Irvington School Community,

Yesterday, Governor Cuomo designated a large portion of Tarrytown as a “Yellow Zone”. This designation does not currently affect the Irvington UFSD.

### What is a Yellow Zone?

The State of New York is managing the current COVID-19 outbreak through a three-tiered system that is referred to as the [New York State Micro-Cluster Strategy](#). This strategy places restrictions on communities to reduce the spread of the virus. Based on metrics associated with the positivity rate of tests administered for residents within a given community, a Yellow, Orange or Red designation can be made to define the significance of the restrictions that would be required.

### If a community is identified as a Yellow Zone, what does that mean?

Schools: Remain Open; required testing of 20% of students/staff attending on site

Restaurants: 4 person limit per table indoors and outdoors

Businesses: Remain Open

Worship: 50% capacity

Mass Gatherings: 25 people maximum

### What happens if a school is in a community designated as a Yellow Zone?

Using our school community **as an example**, our students would attend school following our regular school schedule. However, within two weeks of Irvington being defined as a Yellow Zone, 20% of IUFSD students and staff learning or working on site would be tested for COVID-19:

- Individuals would be selected through a random sampling and a self-administered, rapid test would be utilized.
- 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.
- 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.
- **Parent/guardian consent is required for testing of all students.**

### What is Irvington UFSD doing to prepare for the possible, future Yellow Zone Designation?

The District has taken numerous steps to prepare for the potential need to facilitate the testing that would be required by New York State. The following actions have been taken:

- As a Limited Service Laboratory license (LSL) is required to administer COVID tests, I have applied to the Westchester County Department of Health (WCDOH) for IUFSD to facilitate testing under an extension of their license. This extension will be granted.
- Enrollment and staffing data has already been provided to WCDOH to order necessary testing kits.
- The NYS Department of Health will provide testing kits to IUFSD at no cost to be administered locally.
- The District is awaiting final proposals from private laboratories and medical service providers to support school/District staff in the administration of testing.
- Additional proposals have been requested for supplemental testing, should it be desired and affordable.

The District will distribute testing consent forms next week because parent/guardian consent is required for testing. Your cooperation in returning those consent forms quickly will serve to expedite the testing process as well as limit the risk of school closure should IUFSD be identified as a Yellow Zone.

I understand that these are stressful days for all of us. On top of the daily concerns that already exist due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is difficult to worry about the potential impact of a Yellow Zone designation from the Governor. However, IUFSD will continue to take all steps necessary to support and maintain the healthiest environment possible for our students to learn and our employees to work. If local testing metrics identify the need for testing in our schools, we are ready and will do everything possible to minimize disruptions to learning.

As always, I remain thankful for your support and trust.

Take good care,

Kris

Dr. Kristopher Harrison  
Superintendent of Schools

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