



ONTEORA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Onteora Board of Education Communications Committee COVID-19 Forum

January 19, 2021





Current Status

- Currently remote learning through close of second quarter.
- Return to in-person learning on February 1st , the start of the third quarter.
- Updating District information on the Onteora website daily related to positive and presumptive positive cases as well as quarantines. (note: quarantines may be related to the positive and presumptive positive cases or may be unrelated to District cases)
- School employees are currently eligible for vaccination.
 - Vaccination initiative began and was halted due to vaccination shortages. Two days of scheduled appointments were canceled last week. New appointments have not yet been created for those that were cancelled and no additional appointments have been created.



Current Status

- Sending out request for consent to test this week for those families with students designated for in-person learning to determine if we meet the required threshold for testing.
 - It is recommended that Districts obtain above the required % consent to account for those that may decide to decline on the testing day.
- Our Medical Director has been trained on how to perform the tests.
- UCDOH provided Abbott Binax Now test kits
- <https://www.abbott.com/BinaxNOW-Test-NAVICA-App.html>
 - If we obtain adequate consent, we will explore the requirements for implementing testing in each building.

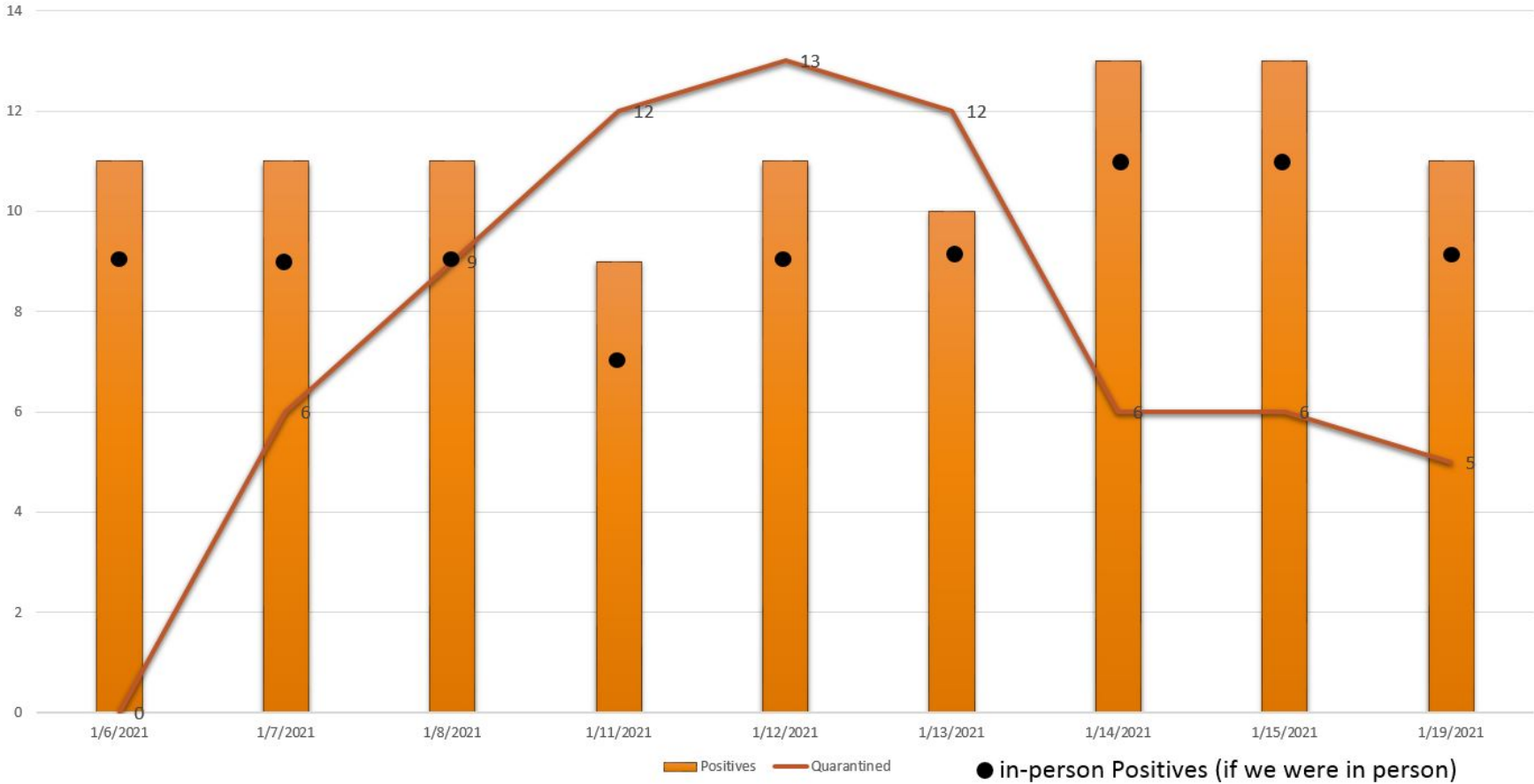


ONTEORA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Data: NYS COVID Dashboard vs UC COVID Dashboard

Date	NYS COVID Dashboard		UC Covid Dashboard
	Daily % Positive	7 Day % Positive	Daily % Positive
January 10	6.70%	7.40%	8.10%
January 11	7.90%	7.30%	8.20%
January 12	6.60%	7.10%	5.30%
January 13	4.70%	6.90%	6.30%
January 14	6.70%	6.80%	6.60%
January 15	5.30%	6.50%	7.50%
January 16	6.30%	6.30%	5.30%
January 17	5.50%	6.10%	6.50%
January 18	7.10%	6.30%	8.10%

Positive Cases, Quarantines and In-Person Positives (if we were in-person)





Reopening Plan Documents

» Testing and Contact Tracing Plan for all school districts provided by UCDOH:

> *First plan provided at the start of the school year included the following related to building closure:*

» District Rapid Response Plan

> If any school in the District has three or more active cases at one time, involving more than one classroom, the school should close and work with the Ulster County Health Department's Rapid Response Team on mass testing of staff and students, subject to parent or guardian permission.



Reopening Plan Documents

- » Revised Testing and Contact Tracing Plan for all school districts provided by UCDOH on December 11, 2020:
 - > *The language related to building closure was modified to:*
- » District Rapid Response Plan
 - > If any school in the district has more than 3% of their census (staff, students and faculty) COVID-19 positive they are required close and work with the UCDOH Rapid Response Team on mass testing of staff and students, subject to parent or guardian permission.



Current Guidance from Ulster County

- » As of January 15, 2021 the following information was shared in response to a question submitted to UC for clarification following a countywide Superintendent meeting with UC Representatives:

Question submitted: The current guidance indicates that if we have 3% of our in-person census as positive we have to close. You indicated at our meeting that this is no longer the case. Can you send an email to that effect so that we can remove it from our public postings of the current guidance?

- » This is no longer the guidance. Please follow the state guidance revolving around zones and testing or closure once the county reaches 9 percent on the 7-day average.



Published Metrics for Entering Cluster Zones

On December 10, Governor Cuomo announced new metrics by which micro-cluster focus zones will be determined to help control COVID-19 spread and protect hospital capacity.

- » **Red Zone:** A red zone will be implemented when a region, after the cancellation of elective procedures and a 50 percent increase in hospital capacity, is 21 days away from reaching 90 percent hospital capacity on the current 7-day growth rate.
- » **Orange Zone:** A geographic area will be eligible to an Orange Zone if it has a 4 percent positivity rate (7-day average) over the last 10 days and it is located in a region that has reached 85 percent hospital capacity. Alternatively, a geographic area may also become an Orange Zone if the State Department of Health determines the region's rate of hospital admissions is unacceptably high and a zone designation is appropriate to control the rate of growth.
- » **Yellow Zone:** A geographic area will be eligible to enter a Yellow Zone if it has a 3 percent positivity rate (7-day average) over the past 10 days and is in the top 10 percent in the state for hospital admissions per capita over the past week and is experiencing week-over-week growth in daily admissions.

<https://forward.ny.gov/cluster-action-initiative>



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RESTRICTIONS BY CLUSTER ZONE

<https://forward.ny.gov/cluster-action-initiative>

Type of Activity	Red	Orange	Yellow
Non-Residential Gatherings	Prohibited	10 people maximum, indoors and outdoors	25 people maximum, indoors and outdoors
Residential Gatherings	Prohibited	10 people maximum, indoors and outdoors	10 people maximum, indoors and outdoors
House of Worship	Lesser of: 25% of maximum capacity 10 people	Lesser of: 33% of maximum capacity 25 people	50% of maximum capacity
Businesses	Non-essential businesses are closed	Gyms, fitness centers and classes operate at 25% capacity; barber shops, hair salons, personal care services can provide services so long as employees performing services are tested for COVID-19 on a weekly basis.	Open
Dining*	Takeout or delivery only	Outdoor dining, takeout or delivery only, 4 person maximum per table, and bars and restaurants close at 10:00 PM for on-premises consumption	Indoor and outdoor dining permitted, 4 person maximum per table, and bars and restaurants close at 10:00 PM for on-premises consumption
Schools	Open** 30% monthly testing of in-person students and faculty	Open** 20% monthly testing of in-person students and faculty	Open 20% weekly testing of in-person students and faculty



Yellow Zone Required Testing for Schools

- 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.
- 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.



Orange and Red Zone Required Testing for Schools

Schools in an Orange Zone

- » For schools located in a geographic area designated as an Orange Zone, a total of 20% 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 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.



Resources

Cluster initiative guidance:

- » <https://forward.ny.gov/cluster-action-initiative>

Guidance for schools:

- » <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/12/guidanceforschoolsinredandorangezones.pdf>

Yellow Zone Testing Guidance for Schools:

- » <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/11/yellow-zone-update-11.14.20-addendum-final.pdf#:~:text=Pursuant%20to%20the%20Interim%20Guidance,instruction%20in%20yellow%20zones%20are>

Onteora website showing history of COVID-19 cases, presumptive positive cases, and quarantines

- » <https://www.onteora.k12.ny.us/about/2020-2021-school-year/letters-about-potential-confirmed-covid-cases>

Onteora Website chart showing positive, quarantine, and in-person positive cases

- » <https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1610736998/onteorak12nyus/q8watauhvxnnh8z0nxzq/PositiveCasesw-inpersonquaran.pdf>