



Onteora Central School District

# COVID-19

Informational Meetings

Board of Education

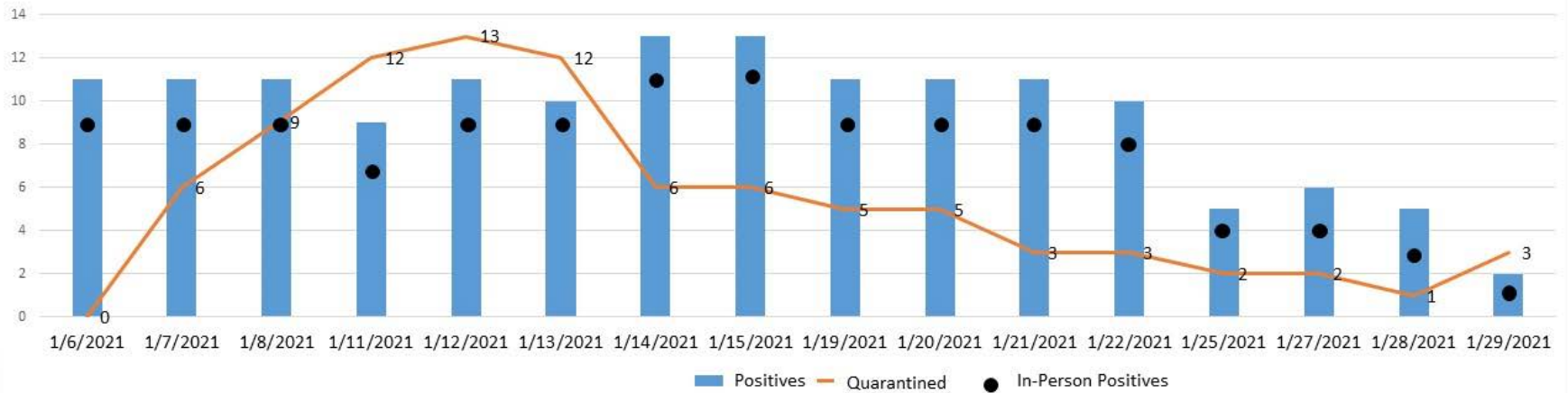
Communications Committee

March 16, 2021

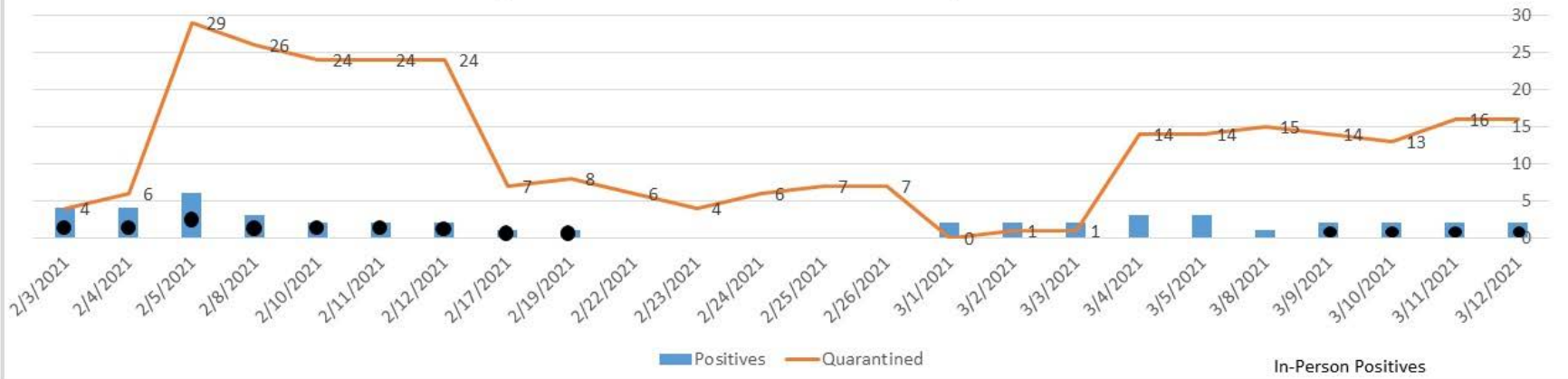


# Onteora Central School District

Daily Positives Quarantines In-Person – January 2021



Daily Positives Quarantines In-Person February – March 2021





## Onteora Central School District

# Current Consent to Testing Status

|               | Students |           | Staff   |           | Total   |           | % Consent |
|---------------|----------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|-----------|
|               | Consent  | In-School | Consent | In-School | Consent | In-School |           |
| Bennett       | 55       | 123       | 18      | 50        | 73      | 173       | 42%       |
| High School   | 57       | 169       | 26      | 69        | 83      | 238       | 35%       |
| Middle School | 32       | 79        | 16      | 23        | 48      | 102       | 47%       |
| Phoenicia     | 58       | 107       | 20      | 38        | 78      | 145       | 54%       |
| Woodstock     | 37       | 77        | 21      | 40        | 58      | 117       | 50%       |



## Onteora Central School District

***UPDATE: 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.***



## Onteora Central School District

**Clarification from NYSED Sent on February 16, 2021:**

*The Department has received reports from the field that some school districts are requiring parental consent, on behalf of their children, to COVID-19 testing as a condition of activities including in-person learning and extracurricular activities. **The Department hereby clarifies that parent/guardian consent for COVID-19 testing of students may not be a condition of in person learning or other school activities.***



## Onteora Central School District

### **School Staff Vaccination Reporting:**

- *On February 22nd, Governor Cuomo enacted an Executive Order that requires schools to report the number of teachers that have received a COVID-19 vaccination. Reporting was to begin on Wednesday, February 24th, and be required on a weekly basis thereafter.*
- *On Wednesday, February 24th, schools were notified that this requirement was not going to be in effect immediately and that the state is continuing to explore options for collecting and reporting this information.*
- *On Friday, February 26th, this Executive Order was repealed, but the burden of reporting has been placed on the local health departments.*



## Onteora Central School District

### School Staff Vaccination Status:

- *The Ulster County Department of Health has continued to set aside 15 vaccination appointments per week for each school district in Ulster County, following an initial release of appointments county-wide.*
- *Following last week's appointments, Onteora has approximately 53 individuals waiting for an appointment. This includes full time staff, part time staff, substitutes, and coaches.*
- *The County had anticipated receiving a bulk of vaccinations over the weekend, but that did not take place. They are hopeful that this may still happen. These would have been Pfizer vaccinations. The weekly vaccinations to date have been Moderna.*



# Onteora Central School District

## Information on the District Website:

- We have experienced a trend of very few positive cases and several days with no active positive cases within our District.
- Notifications of positive and presumptive positive cases are posted here:

### [Potential & Confirmed COVID Cases](#)

*Charts include any new cases, and also indicate the changes that have taken place, including clearances, new quarantines, or individuals released from quarantine.*





## Guidance from Ulster County March 11, 2021

Regardless of the level of community transmission, all schools should use multiple mitigation strategies to mitigate transmission. Five key mitigation strategies are essential to safe delivery of in-person instruction:

- Universal and correct use of masks
- Physical distancing
- Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
- Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities
- Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the health department



## **Guidance from Ulster County March 11, 2021**

**Ulster County prioritized vaccinating teachers and school staff to facilitate full-time in-person learning. By Saturday March 13, 2021 nearly all teachers and school staff members who requested the vaccine will have been vaccinated with at least one dose and will have completed both doses by the time they return from Spring Break.**

**Onteora has submitted an additional list of names of those staff members who did not opt for or were not eligible for the vaccination during the first round.**



## Guidance from Ulster County March 11, 2021

Ulster County believes that if the following measures are taken, schools should be able to operate full-time in person 4 or 5 days a week during the balance of this year and continue to keep in-school transmission low like it was in the Fall prior to the holiday season. In the end it is the decision of the local school district to make the decision on how and when to return to full-time in-person school.



## Guidance from Ulster County March 11, 2021

These measures, which serve as the foundation for safe school reopening, are as follows:

- All relevant stakeholders should be involved in this decision process.
- Intense preparation should take place prior to school reopening to ensure that all feasible, practical, and acceptable migration measures are in place.
- It is also critically important to develop strategies that can be quickly revised and adapted, depending on the level of viral transmission in the school and throughout the community, as this may change rapidly.
- Social distancing of 6 feet is still considered by the CDC and the NYSDOH to be the best measure to reduce virus spread, however, if 6 feet of separation is not attainable, then the installation of barriers such as sneeze guards and partitions may be considered, however the separation must be no less than 3 feet.



## Guidance from Ulster County March 11, 2021

- Add physical barriers, such as plastic flexible screens, between bathroom sinks especially when they cannot be at least 6 feet apart. Provide physical guides, such as tape on floors or sidewalks and signs on walls, to ensure that staff and children remain at least 6 feet apart in lines and at other times (e.g. guides for creating “one-way routes” in hallways).
- Close communal use shared spaces such as dining halls and playgrounds with shared playground equipment if possible; otherwise, stagger use and clean between use.
- Turn desks to face in the same direction (rather than facing each other), or have students sit on only one side of tables, spaced apart.
- Modify learning stations and activities as applicable so there are fewer students per group, placed at least 6 feet apart if possible.



## Guidance from Ulster County March 11, 2021

- **Create distance between children on school buses (e.g., seat children one child per row, skip rows) when possible. If this distancing is not possible, windows must be open at all times.**
  - **All children and staff must always wear masks while on the bus.**
  - **As the weather gets warmer, classes should only take mask breaks outdoors and with students more than 6 feet socially distanced.**
  - **Install approved HVAC systems and ensure proper ventilation.**
  - **Continue to offer remote learning and allow parents to opt out of in-person learning.**



## Onteora Central School District

### **Current Program:**

**K-6 in-person learning students attend five days per week. (only Ulster County School District with a five day per week in-person elementary option)**

**7-12: in-person learning students attend two days per week and two days per week remotely, with one asynchronous day.**

- **MS and HS RTI committees have identified certain students at risk academically and invited them to attend four days per week.**



# Onteora Central School District

## 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>

Ulster County COVID-19 Dashboard

- » <https://covid19.ulstercountyny.gov/dashboard/>

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>





# Questions? Feedback?

Please utilize the Q & A function