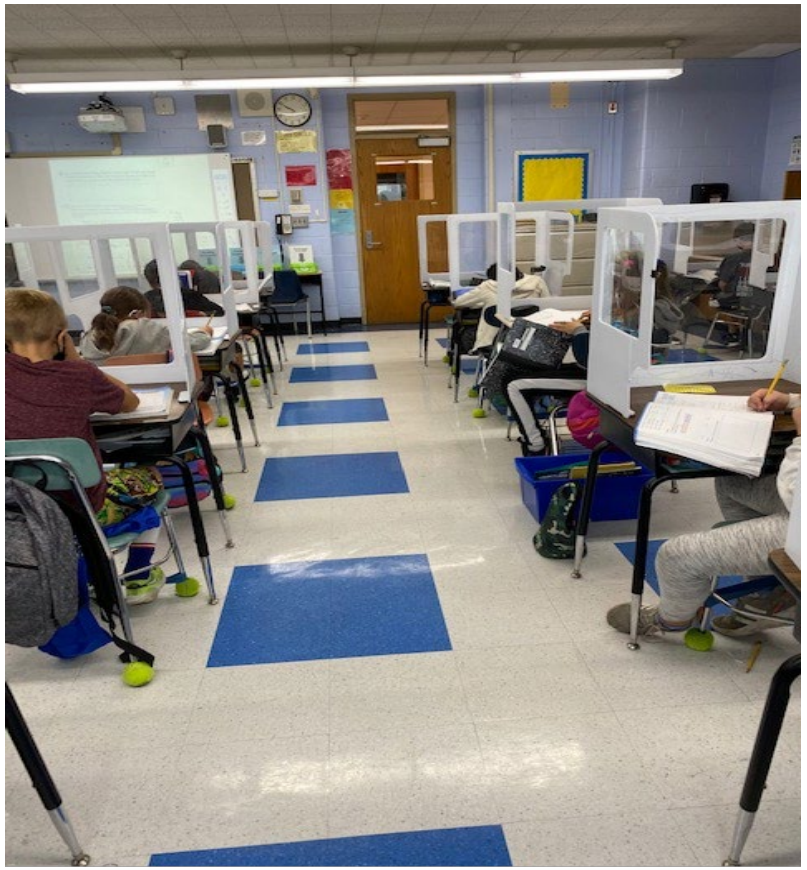
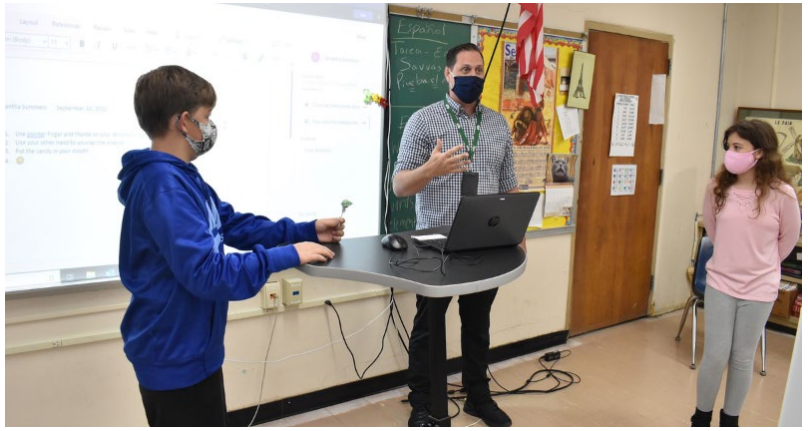


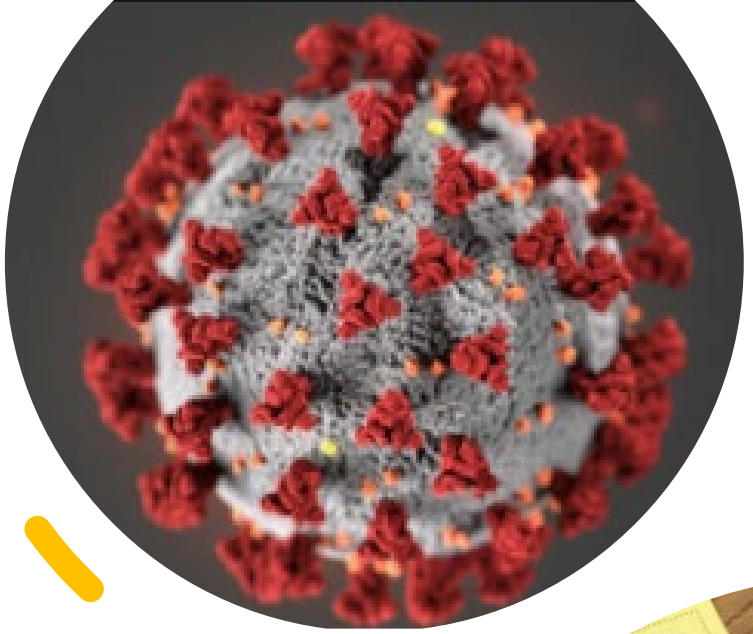


Winter COVID-19 Update

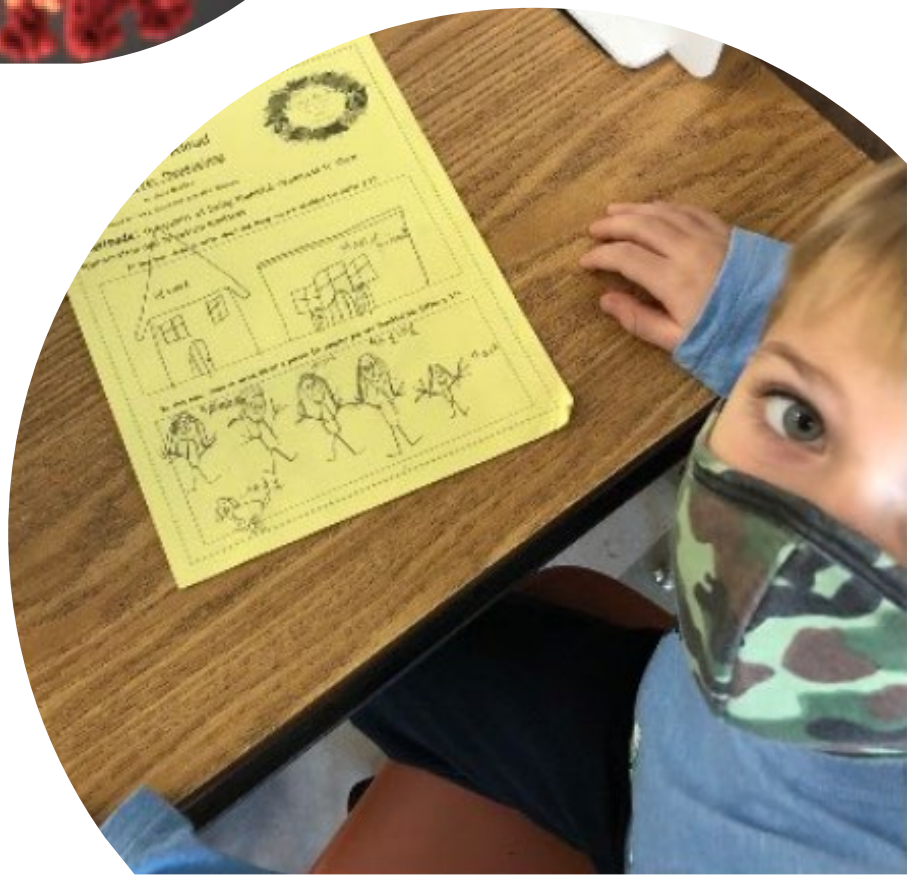
Keeping Schools Open during the Pandemic

Dr. Adele Pecora

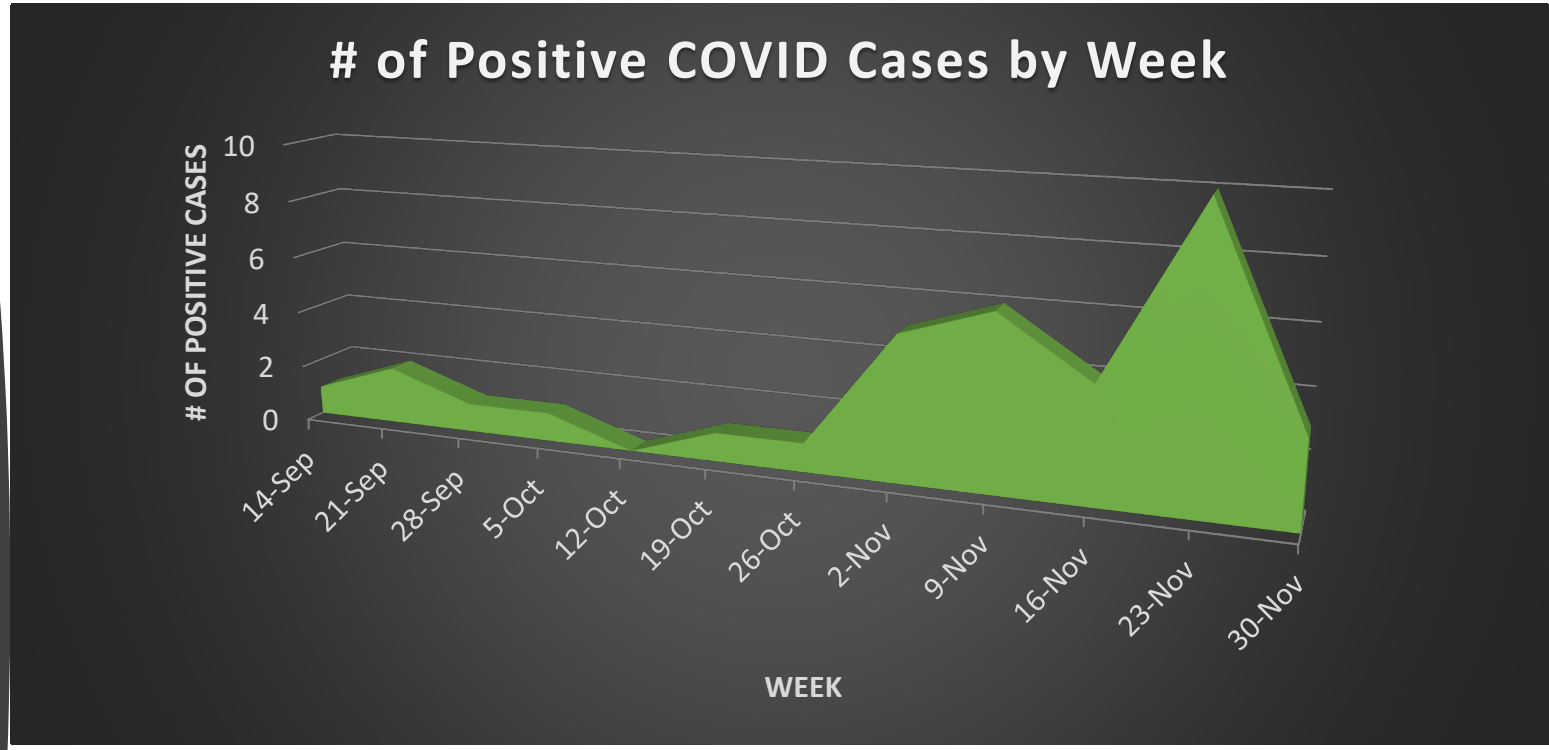
The Impact of the COVID-19 Virus



- Currently, the daily Nassau County average of school closures is 32
- Seaford has **not** closed a school since the start of the 2020-21 school year
- At times it has been necessary to quarantine individuals and entire classes
- Our first case was September 17, 2020
- Since September there have been a total of 33 positive cases, 15 students and 18 employees
- We have worked closely with the Department of Health. However, response time is slowing due to the rise in the number of cases



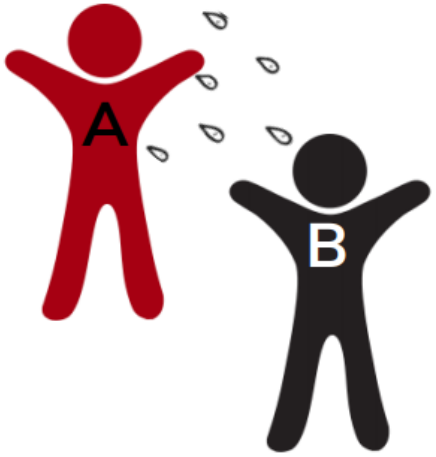
Seaford Schools Cases



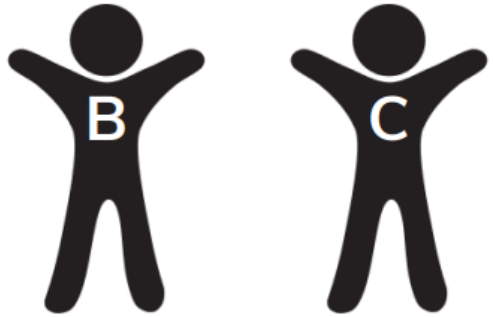
Location	# of COVID Cases	# Isolated/Quarantined
Harbor School	6	41
Manor School	12	69
Seaford Middle School	7	67
Seaford High School	7	49
Central Office	1	2
Total	33	228

Per the CDC, a “Close Contact” is someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated.

Person A:
Confirmed Case -
Required to be in isolation



Person B:
Close Contact -
Required to be in quarantine

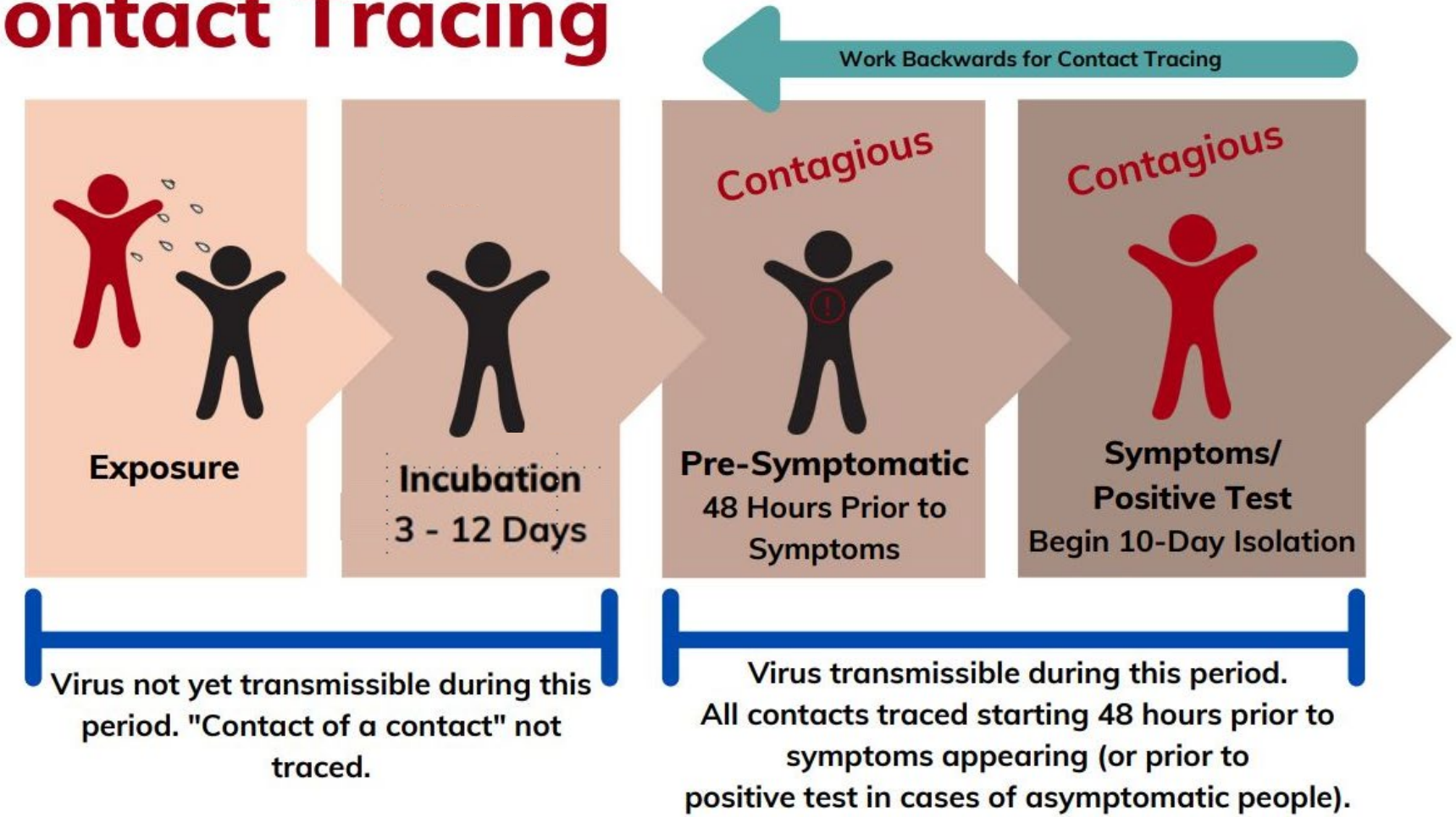


Person C:
Contact of a Contact -
Unless Person B has or develops symptoms of COVID19 or tests positive, Person C is not subject to quarantine

Close Contacts, Contact of a Contact

- If you or your child has tested positive for COVID-19, please call and email your building principal immediately.
- The District will complete and intake form and begin working with the NCDOH on contact tracing.
- Anyone who could potentially be deemed a "close contact" will be notified.
- A notification will be sent to the community via Shoutpoint and posted on the District webpage.
- Affected areas of building will be cleaned and sanitized.

Contact Tracing



Criteria to Consider:

Mask compliance; Proximity; Amount of time; Barriers; Age of Students

QUARANTINE VS. ISOLATION

Quarantine

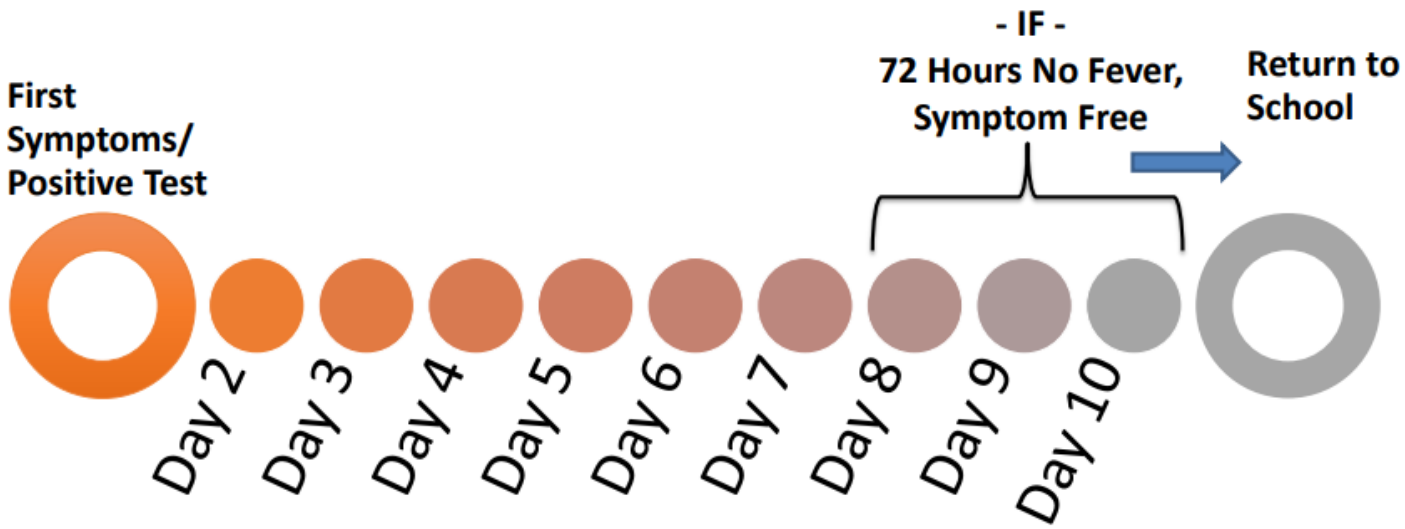
- Close Contact to known case
- 14 days in duration*
- Monitor for signs/symptoms
- Avoid contact with high-risk family members
- Stay in a separate part of the house if possible
- Encouraged to take a COVID test

Isolation

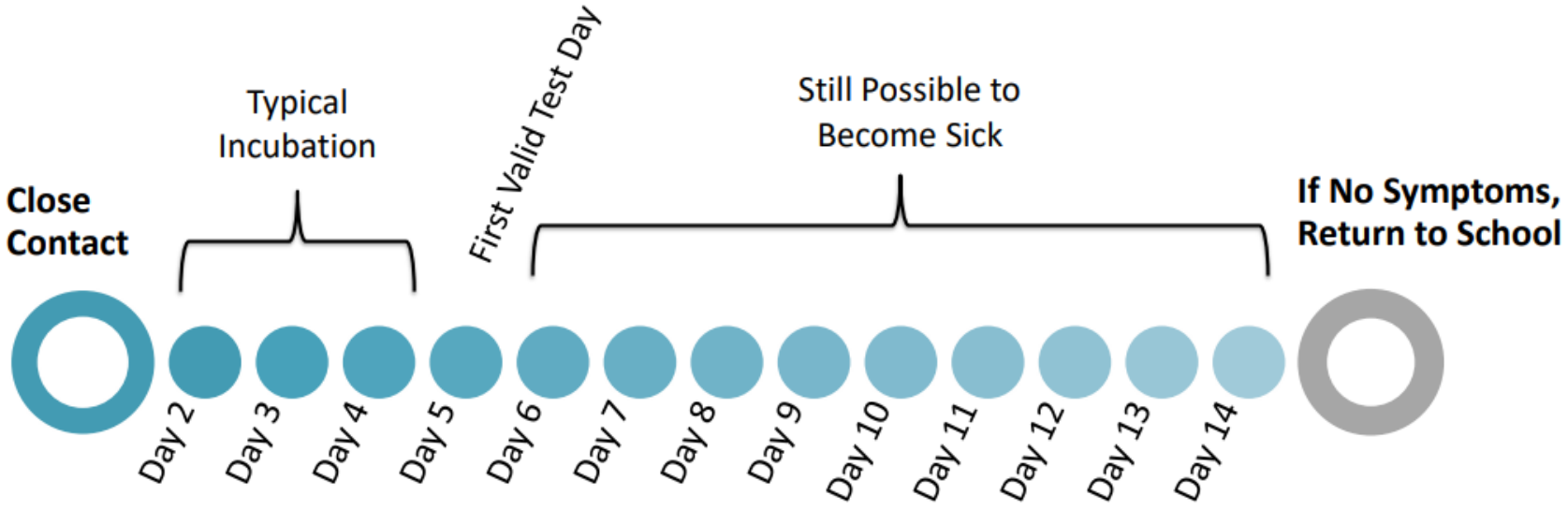
- Actually sick with COVID
- 10 days in duration
- Must segregate in separate part of home with unshared bathroom, eating and sleeping areas

*The CDC are considering lowering this requirement.

ISOLATION – Confirmed COVID-19 Case

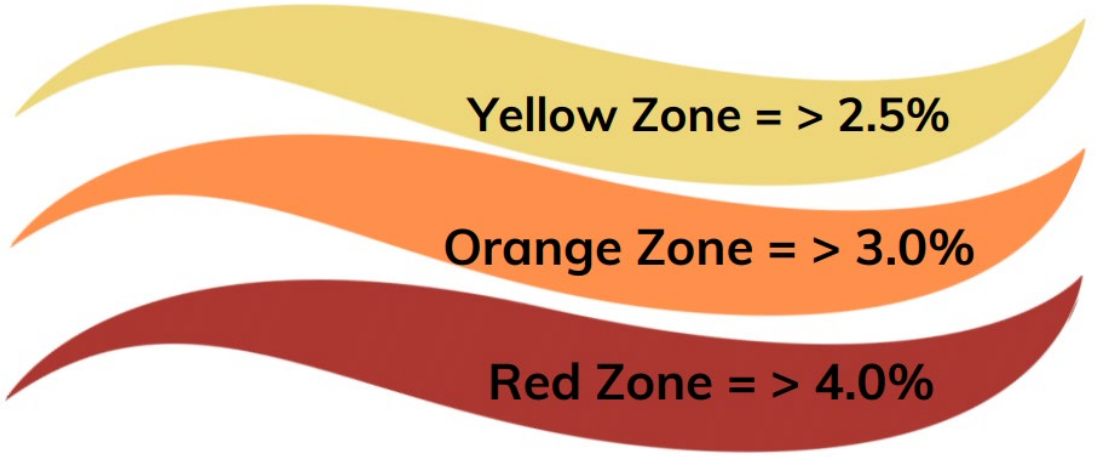


QUARANTINE – Close Contact



In addition to the 3 existing micro-cluster zone levels (Yellow Precautionary, Orange Warning and Red), New York will also add a new 'Emergency Stop' level, which will effectively put that area under the NY Pause guidelines, if needed to preserve hospital capacity.

Local test positivity rate - 10 days of 7-day rolling average:



Our understanding at this time is that the metrics for these zones may change as a result of the Thanksgiving holiday.

New York State Micro-Cluster Strategy

Governor's Winter Plan

Dr. Adele V. Pecora • *Superintendent of Schools*
1600 Washington Avenue, Seaford, NY 11783 • Phone: (516) 592-4010 • Fax: (516) 592-4049

November 23, 2020

Dear Seaford Community,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. Throughout November, 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, it is likely that the New York State Department of Health and Governor Cuomo will designate parts of our county as Yellow Zones, Orange Zones or Red Zones in the coming days.

These designations may 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 area. The NYS Department of Health determines our status based on the positivity rate for our entire community, not just the number of cases connected to our schools. At the present time, it has not been determined that our area falls into any of the micro-cluster zones.

Below is a summary of the impact that a zone designation has on schools:

Yellow Zone	Orange Zone	Red Zone
Geographic area has 7- day rolling average positive COVID-19 testing average above 2.5% for 10 days: • Schools can remain open with 20% testing of in-person students and staff within two weeks of the designation.	Geographic area has 7- day rolling average positive COVID-19 testing average above 3% for 10 days: • 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.	Geographic area has 7- day rolling average positive COVID-19 testing average above 4% for 10 days: • 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.

- Information in my letter dated November 23, 2020 has changed regarding school COVID testing and zone designations.

- The new criteria established for orange and red zones testing was discussed at Gov. Cuomo's 11/30/2020 press conference.

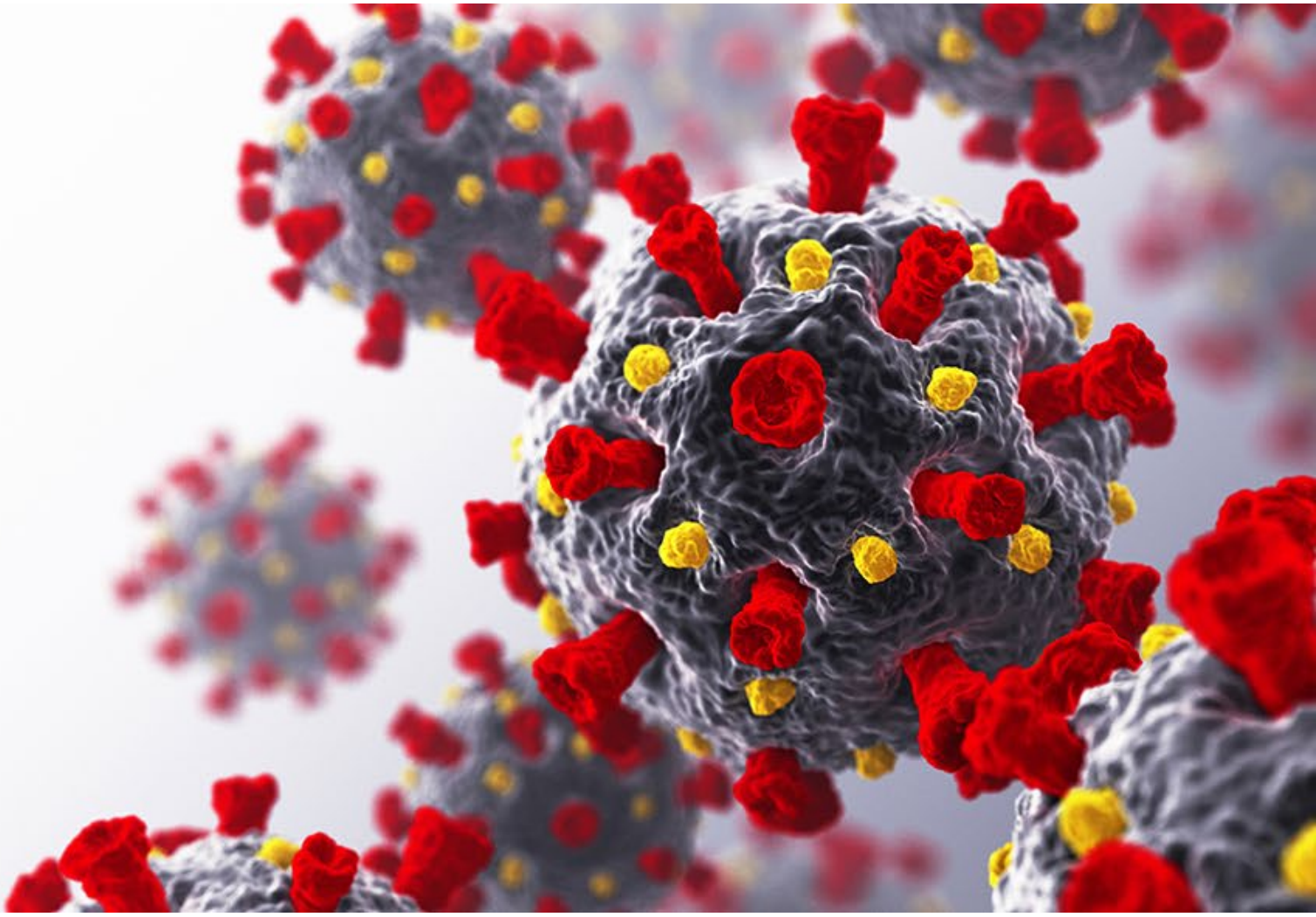
Entire Presentation by Gov. Cuomo on 11/30/2020

COVID Testing in Our Schools may be Required to Stay Open

- Investigating offering COVID-19 testing options on and off campus.
- Students will not be tested without parental consent.
- In most programs, the cost of the test will be underwritten by family health insurance, not the District.
- Ask for volunteers to test realizing that schools will only remain open if we meet the testing criteria.

A Brief Review of the NYS Guidelines for Travel Before the Holiday Season

Travelers must, upon arrival in New York State, quarantine for fourteen days. This time can be shortened following the procedures below:

- For travelers who were out-of-state for more than 24 hours: Travelers must obtain a test within three days of departure, prior to arrival in New York.
- The traveler must, upon arrival in New York, quarantine for three days.
- On day 4 of their quarantine, the traveler must obtain another COVID test. If both tests comes back negative, the traveler may exit quarantine early upon receipt of the second negative diagnostic test.
- Travelers who do not get tested must quarantine for 14 days.
- Those flying must complete a traveler form that will be shared with health departments.
- Per Executive Order 205, non-compliance with any of the above may be deemed a violation pursuant to section 12 of the public health law subject to a civil penalty of up to $10,000.
- For the most up-to-date information about travel restrictions please visit COVID-19 Travel Advisory website.

Questions