

# **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

SYOSSET CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT – MARCH 2021

# ONE YEAR AGO...

- [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1s4WAhExFi0RRgX\\_RAUwfmufpD8r2WHxQ/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1s4WAhExFi0RRgX_RAUwfmufpD8r2WHxQ/view?usp=sharing)





# STILLWELL PARK

POTENTIAL INTER-GOVERNMENTAL TRANSFER



# SALE OF STILLWELL FROM NASSAU COUNTY TO SYOSSET CSD

## Elements of the Project

- Property transfers to Syosset school district for \$1.
- Syosset CSD improves the property.
- Improvements are used for Syosset schools and athletics, property still available to the community.
- Other details:
  - All existing use permits remain in force;
  - County residents remain permitted to use (as now);
  - Only affects the cleared portion (~35 acres);
  - Wooded area (270 acres) remains County property.

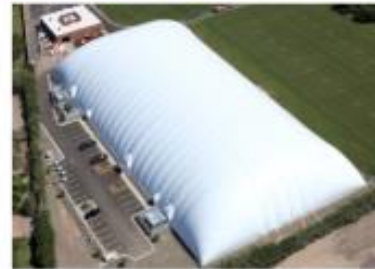
## Financing

- County investment of \$3 million secured in 2019
  - Previously announced by Legislator Lafazan
- School district investment of:
  - \$1 million mitigation payment from developer of 80 Jericho Turnpike
  - \$1 million received from developer of The Sagamore at Mills Pond
  - \$5.5 million from bond issue (requires voter approval)
- Total investment \$10.5 million
  - Annual debt service cost approximately 0.25% of levy.
  - Rolling off existing debt service of approx. 0.50% of levy.
  - Net change won't increase tax levy.
- Approx. \$300,000/year maintenance costs



# PROJECT VISION

- Build year-round soccer-sized dome over turf field;
- Add 1 mile asphalt walking/running path around perimeter for seniors and others
- Improve turf infields for baseball/softball
- Add/improve parking
- Add playground for younger children
- Other safety improvements
  - Security lighting
  - Surveillance cameras
  - Additional bathrooms



# STILLWELL – MORE DETAILS

## Next Steps

- Needs approval by County Legislature:
  - Next meeting date April 29.
- Needs voter approval by Syosset school district May 18, 2021:
  - Must approve the sale for \$1.
  - Must approve the bond for \$5.5 million.

## Financing

- County investment of \$3 million from 2018
- School district investment of:
  - \$1 million pledged from developer of 80 Jericho Turnpike
  - \$1 million from developer of The Sagamore at Mills Pond
  - \$5.5 million from bond issue
- Total investment \$10.5 million.



# **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**





# SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Syosset High School Student Government Representative
- Presentation on Mathematics Instruction
- New Quarantine Rules
- State Testing Updates
- Winter Athletics Accomplishments
- Status of in-person learning



# NEW QUARANTINE RULES

## Close Contact

- Fully vaccinated persons do not have to quarantine after close contact with a COVID+ person
  - Fully vaccinated means 2 weeks after the last dose in a series (2<sup>nd</sup> dose of Pfizer/Moderna, 1<sup>st</sup> dose of J&J).
  - Only applies to the vaccinated individual.
    - Does not apply to unvaccinated family members of vaccinated persons (i.e. their children).
  - Expires 90 days after the last dose in a series.
  - <https://www.nassaucountyny.gov/DocumentCenter/View/32083/Update-to-COVID19-Community-Quarantine-Advisory-March-10-2021?bidId=>

## Travel

- As of 3/10/21, fully vaccinated persons do not have to quarantine after travel to a non-contiguous state
  - Fully vaccinated means 2 weeks after the last dose in a series (2<sup>nd</sup> dose of Pfizer/Moderna, 1<sup>st</sup> dose of J&J)
  - [https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2021/03/update-interim-travel-advisory-march-10-2021\\_0.pdf](https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2021/03/update-interim-travel-advisory-march-10-2021_0.pdf)
- Governor Cuomo: As of 4/1/21 no persons will have to quarantine after travel to a non-contiguous state, regardless of vaccination status
  - No Executive Order or Guidance Memo released yet.
  - School District will implement once official guidance released because currently conflicts with Executive Orders 205.2/205.3

# STATE TESTING UPDATES

## Grades 3-8 Assessments

- Board of Regents requested a “targeted” waiver from USDOE
- If approved, there will be no grades 3-8 tests
- If not approved,
  - Only Session 1 of the grades 3-8 assessments in Math and ELA will be required, a shift from the standard practice where these assessments are administered in two sessions; and
  - Only the written test component of the Grades 4 and 8 Science Tests will be held; the performance tests (labs) will not be administered.

## High School Regents Exams

- NYSED has requested a waiver from USDOE
  - If approved, no Regents exams will be administered
  - If disapproved, only 4 exams will be given: ELA, Earth Science, Algebra 1, Living Environment
  - No August exams
- Existing Regents exam exemptions remain in place

# ATHLETICS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Winter Sports Successes!

- Gymnastics – Nassau County Champions
- Swimming – Nassau County Champions
- Fencing – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place County Finalist
- Girls basketball – Conference Champs
- Boys basketball – Conference Champs
- Wrestling
  - 7 All County wrestlers
  - 8 All Conference

## Individual Recognitions

- Will be included in my Friday email to the community so everyone hears the good news!
- Congratulations to all the teams and athletes!!



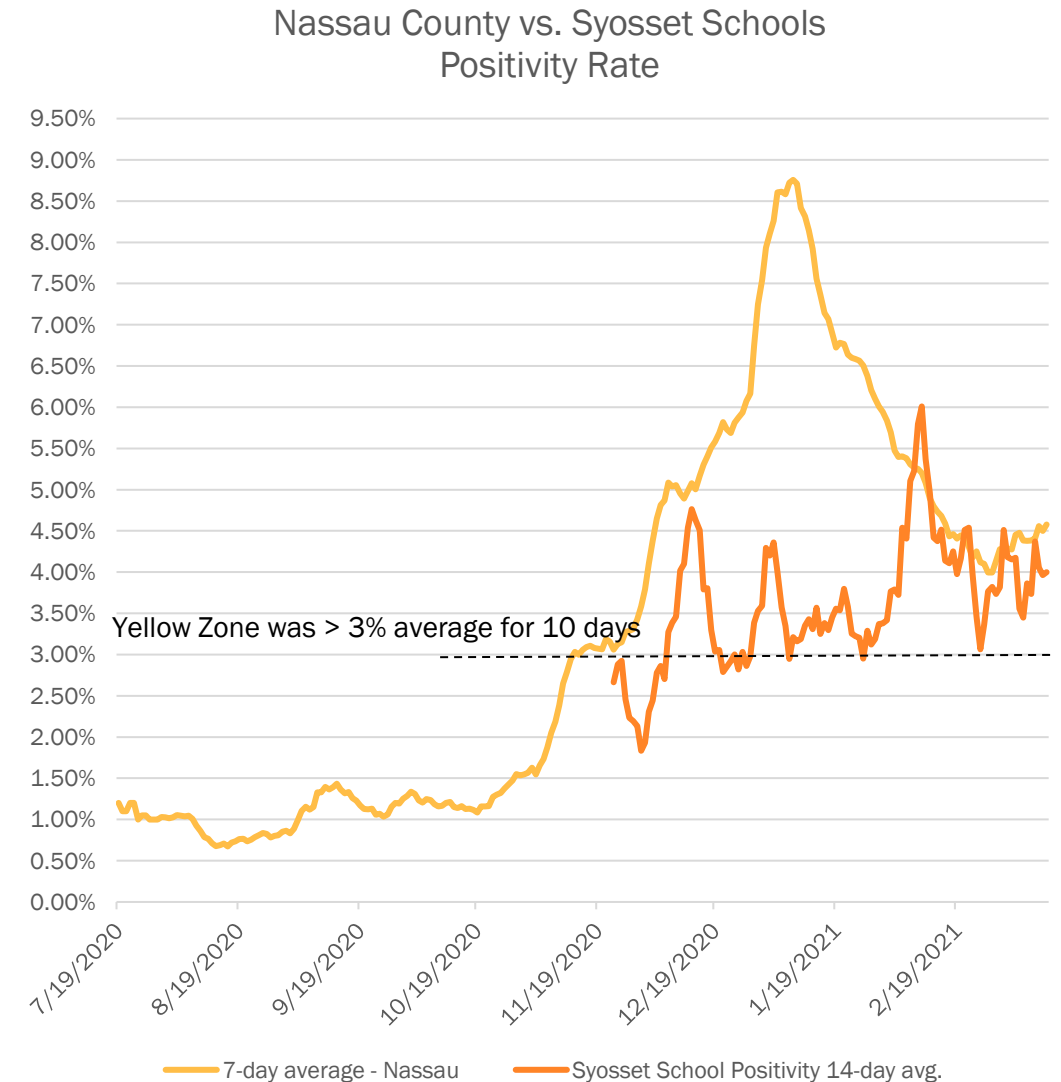
# STATUS OF IN-PERSON LEARNING

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT CONDITIONS RE COVID-19



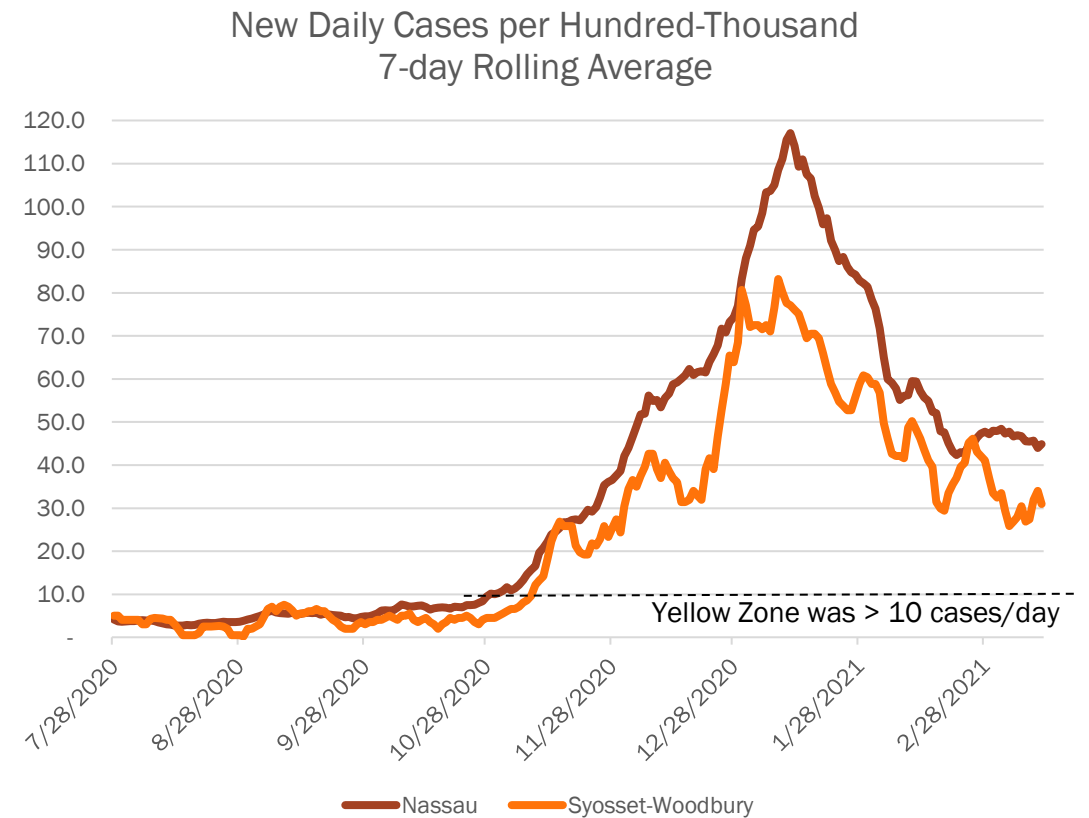
# ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN

- Positivity rates remain much higher than October 2020.
- Current 7-day average for Syosset schools and Nassau County remain above the 3.0% “yellow zone” threshold.
- County average positivity rate reached a low point 13 days ago and has risen since.



# ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN

- Case counts remain elevated
- Case counts appear to have plateaued
  - Nassau 4 times Yellow Zone limit.
  - Syosset-Woodbury – 3 times Yellow Zone limit.
- Rapid growth of Variants:
  - “By mid-February, the two together accounted for about **27 percent** of New York City viral sequences ...”(2/24/21) <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/24/health/coronavirus-variant-nyc.html>
  - “Two coronavirus variants, the U.K. and New York City strains, are continuing to spread throughout the five boroughs and account for **51 percent** of all current cases citywide.” (3/10/21) <https://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/coronavirus/all-new-yorkers-age-60-can-now-get-covid-vaccines-pharmacies-gain-bigger-role/2934602/>

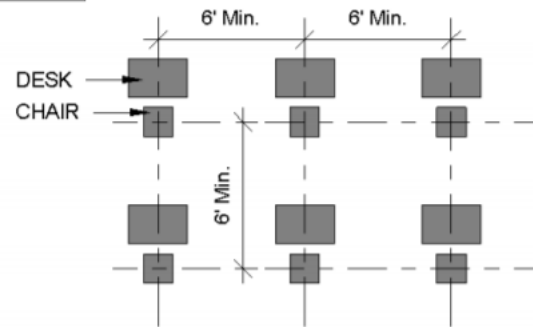


Source: <https://forward.ny.gov/percentage-positive-results-county-dashboard>  
<https://projects.newsday.com/long-island/tracking-the-coronavirus-on-long-island/>

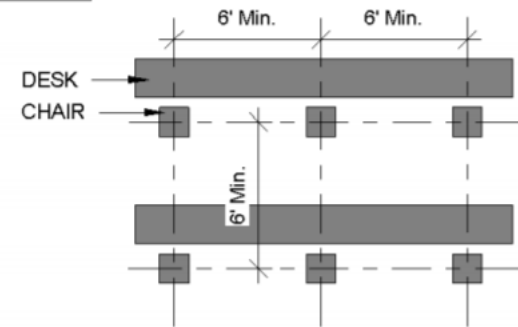


# NYSED GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

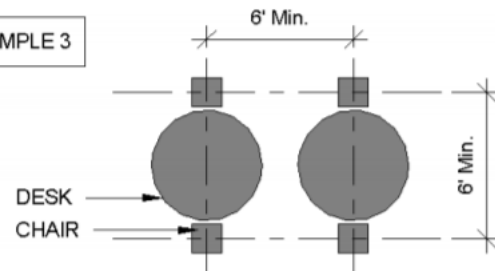
EXAMPLE 1



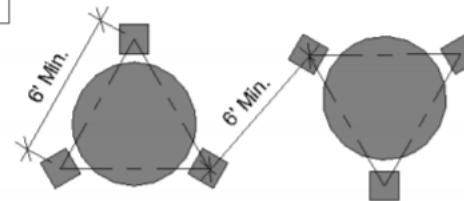
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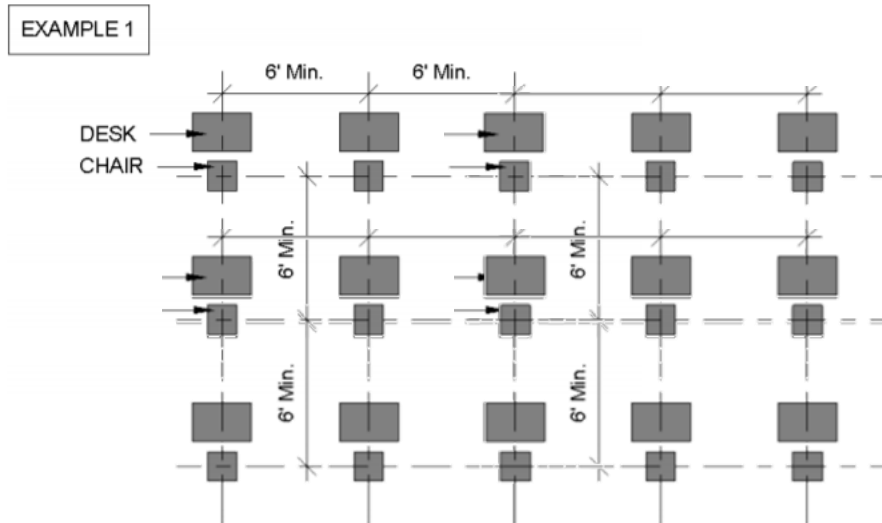
EXAMPLE 3



EXAMPLE 4

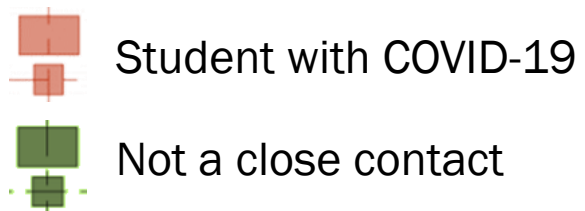
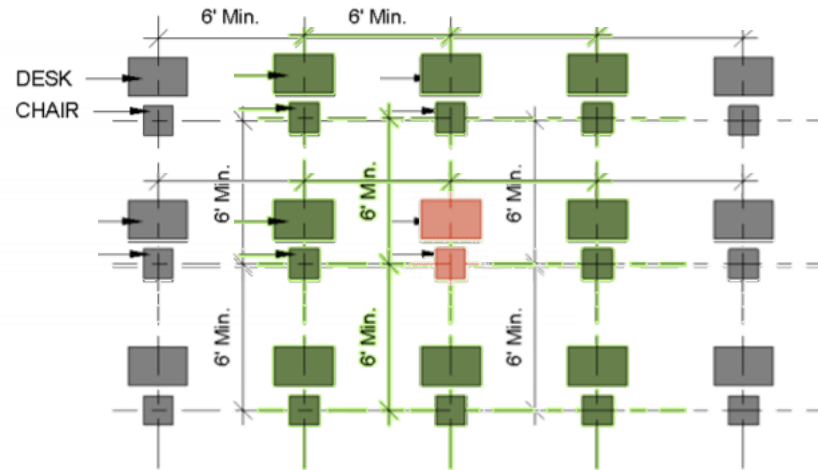


# TYPICAL SHS CLASSROOM



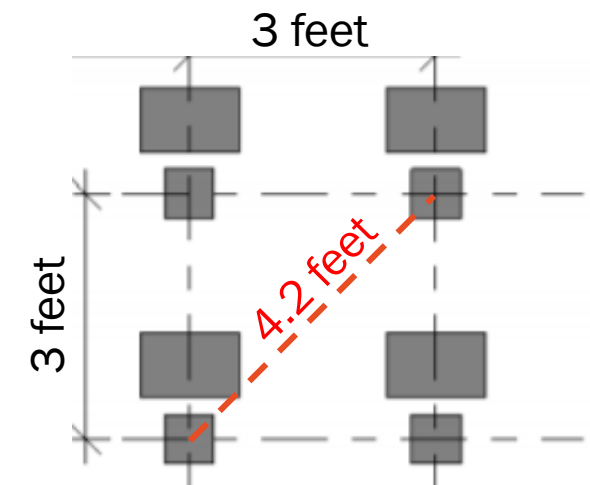
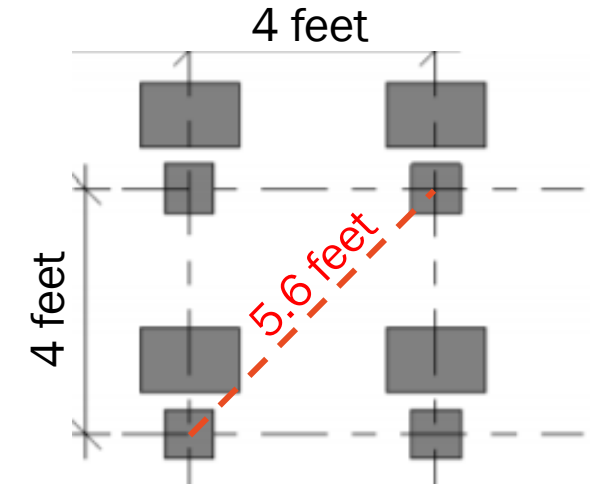
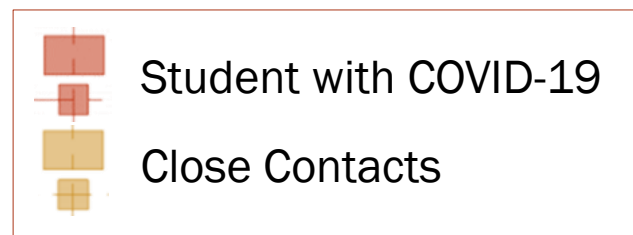
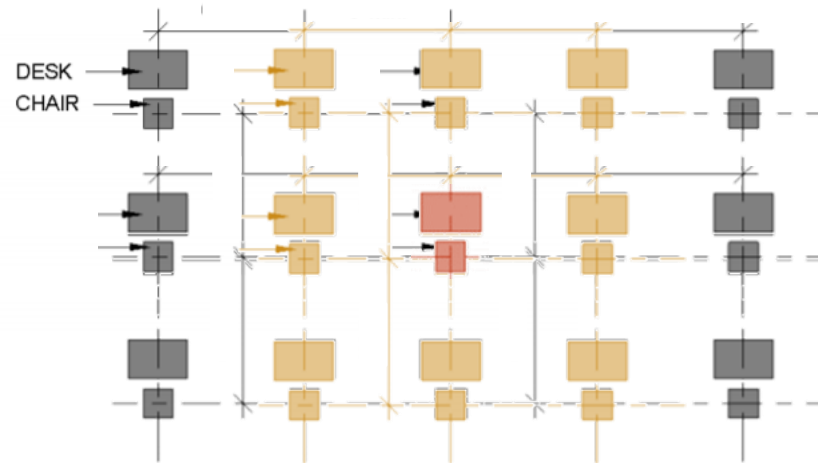
# CONTACT TRACING AT 6 FEET

- All desks 6 feet apart
- No close contacts identified
- Only the COVID-positive student must isolate



## CONTACT TRACING AT 4 FEET OR 3 FEET

- All desks 3 feet or 4 feet apart
- Anyone less than 6 feet away is a close contact
- 8 close contacts identified
- All close contacts must quarantine for 10 days, return on day 11



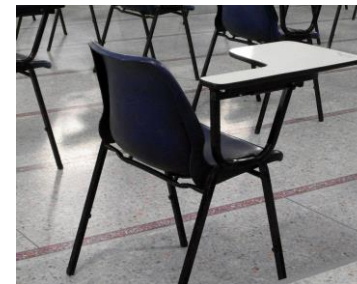
# SYOSSET HIGH SCHOOL

- 313,000 square feet
- 99 classrooms
- 94% of classrooms in use every period of 9-period day
  - Classes
  - Extra help, etc.
- 2,205 students
  - 25% of students all-virtual
  - Remaining cohorts on A/B schedule

Period	Classes	Enough Room	Need Overflow	Percent Overflow
1	87	21	66	75.9%
2	71	16	55	77.5%
3	85	13	72	84.7%
4	77	14	63	81.8%
5	71	14	57	80.3%
6	73	15	58	79.5%
7	84	14	70	83.3%
8	67	12	55	82.1%
9	75	13	62	82.7%

## OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Busing
  - Low-density busing not possible. Ridership will double.
- Car drop-off
  - Estimate double the number of drop-off cars morning/afternoon
- Morning entry
  - Will take 2x as long to do morning temperature screenings
- Desks
  - About 1,000 desks too small for plastic shields



Too small for 3-sided Sneeze Guard



Large enough for 3-sided Sneeze Guard



## OTHER DISTRICTS?

- New York City (Data gleaned from [Gothamist](#) & [Chalkbeat](#).)
  - 645,000 are choosing to remain at home.
  - 315,000 have chosen to return to classrooms,
    - Roughly 60% of NYC high schoolers have chosen to stay home so reopening applies to only about 40% of students.
    - Only about half of the 55,000 NYC high school students who have chosen in-person learning will have 5-day per week instruction or roughly 20% of the overall student population.
    - New York City requires rapid-testing of 20% of the in-person population weekly.
- Harrison (Westchester)
  - Is [surveillance testing](#) 10% of students weekly.
- Oyster Bay
  - Open campus and no gym because no other room for lunch

School	High School Square Footage	High School Students	Square Feet per Student	Enrollment change from peak
Farmingdale	423,000 sf.	1,866	226 sf.	- 14.8%
Hauppauge	382,240 sf.	1,172	326 sf.	- 15%
Half Hollow Hills	491,000 sf.	2,867	171 sf.	- 23%
Syosset	313,000 sf.	2,205	142 sf.	+ 4.5%

- Other large districts have significantly fewer students per square foot than Syosset
  - This is due to enrollment losses and/or larger buildings

# TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

- Tents

- Cannot be over 200 square feet
- Can only have sides if there are lighted exit signs, smoke detectors and fire alarms.
- If has sides or > 200 square feet, must be approved by NYS Education Department Office of Facilities Planning

- Trailers/"Portables"

- Must be approved by NYSED OFP (40-week lead time)
- Cost is 80% of building a free-standing building
- Lead time for construction is significant

- Woodbury School

- Needs \$3 million in work, including lead and asbestos abatement

- Leased property

- Must meet NYSED regulations as a school building. Not office space



# LOOKING AHEAD

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS FOR LATE SPRING AND FALL



# NEW RESEARCH ON 3 FEET VS. 6 FEET

## Recent Research

- CDC Study (Wisconsin): “Among 191 cases identified in students and staff members, only seven (3.7%) cases, all among students, were linked to in-school spread” <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7004e3.htm>
  - In Syosset, this would be the equivalent of 14 cases via classroom transmission vs. zero cases currently.
- Massachusetts study: “Student case rates were similar in the 242 districts with  $\geq 3$  feet versus  $\geq 6$  feet of physical distancing between students.” Author’s limitations on study findings:
  - “We also did not have detailed contact tracing data available, and so were not able to determine if cases in students were due to transmissions that happened within the school environment or independent introductions from cases acquired in the community.” (emphasis added)
  - “During the study period, active surveillance programs were rare, and thus we were not able to identify asymptomatic cases that may have resulted from in-school transmission, or to measure the effectiveness of this intervention as a tool for controlling SARS-CoV-2 spread in school settings.”
  - <https://academic.oup.com/cid/advance-article/doi/10.1093/cid/ciab230/6167856>

## Policy Discussion

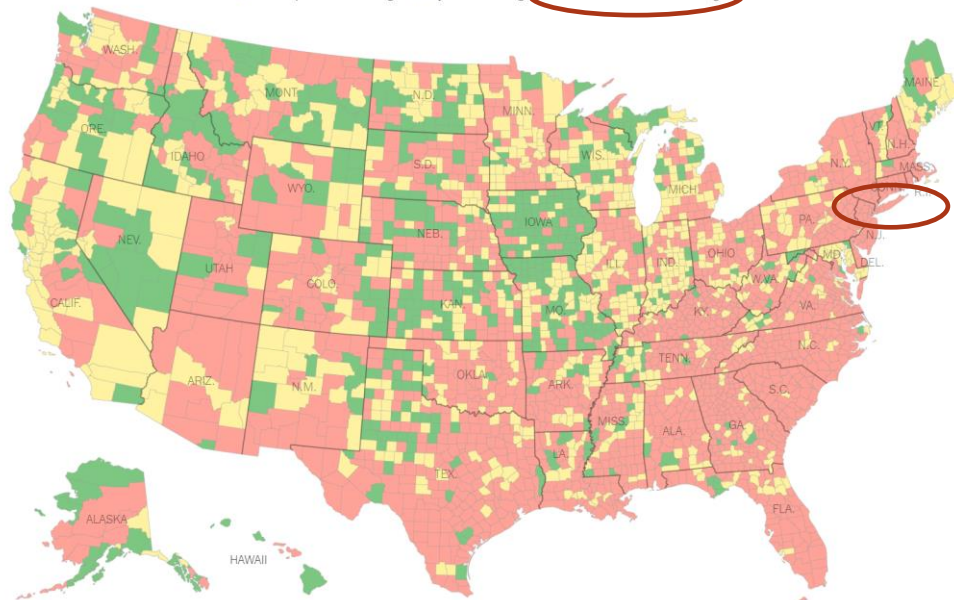
- NYS Health Commissioner, Dr. Howard [Zucker](#) said that “...there is discussion on three feet, if there will be barriers,” (2/25/21)
  - He indicated new guidance the following week.
  - But, no new guidance yet. So... too risky? or too soon?
- [Dr. Anthony Fauci said](#), “What the C.D.C. wants to do is accumulate data, and when data shows ability to be three feet, they will act accordingly.” (3/14/21)

# HOWEVER, CURRENT CDC REOPENING GUIDELINES

## Where Cases Are Low Enough for Middle and High Schools to Fully Open

For schools without routine coronavirus testing or strict safeguards, based on C.D.C. thresholds for cases and test-positivity rates by county.

● Full in-person learning ● Hybrid learning ● Full-time remote learning

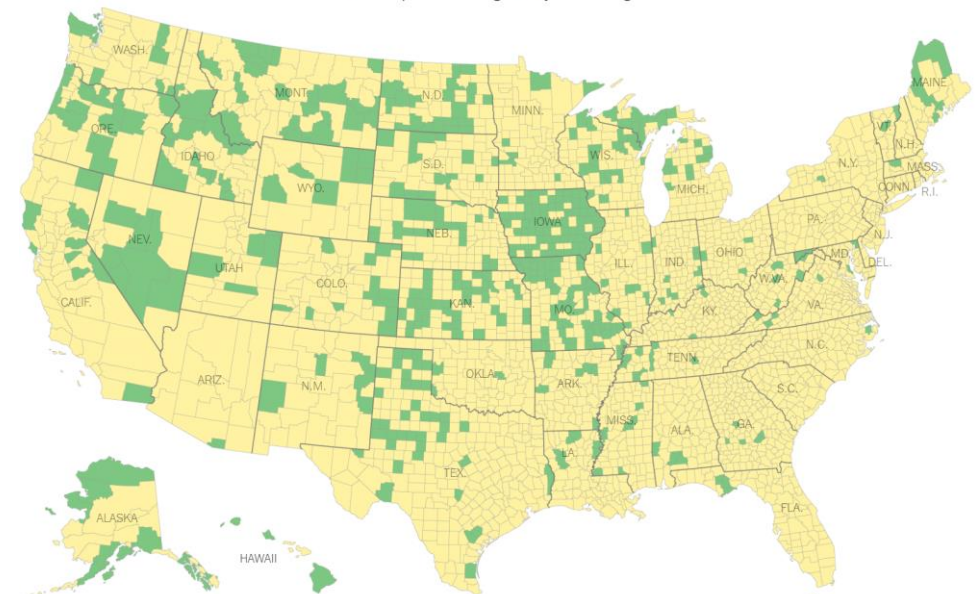


Source: New York Times analysis of data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention | Note: In Iowa, which stopped reporting cases by county on Feb. 20, categorizations are based on test positivity rates alone.

## Where Cases Are Low Enough for Elementary Schools to Fully Open

Based on C.D.C. thresholds for weekly coronavirus cases and test-positivity rates by county.

● Full in-person learning ● Hybrid learning



Source: New York Times analysis of data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention | Note: In Iowa, which stopped reporting cases by county on Feb. 20, categorizations are based on test positivity rates alone.

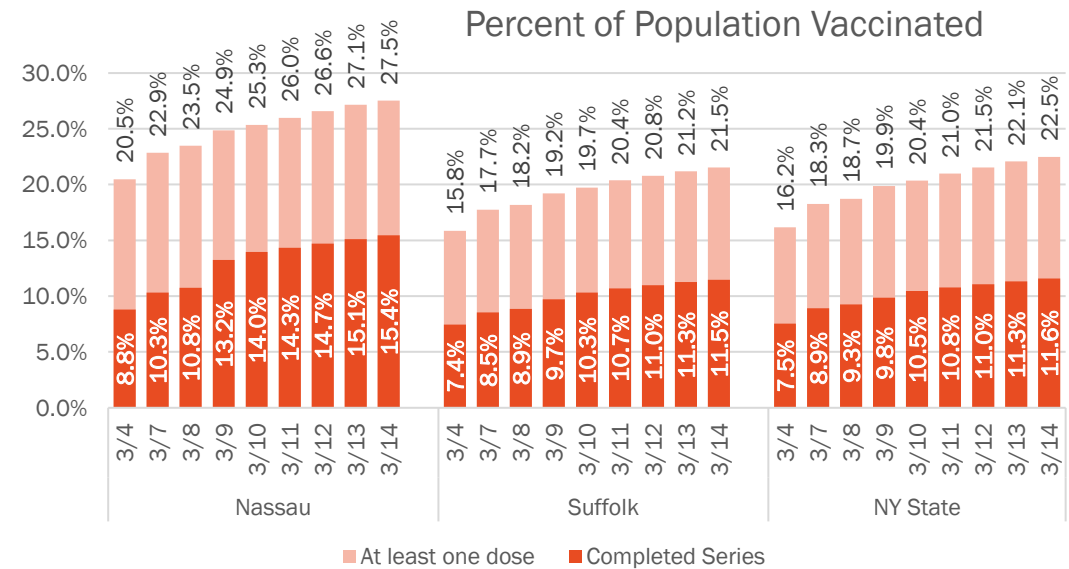
Under current conditions, the CDC recommends Middle and High Schools to pivot to full remote learning.

# WHAT WILL BE DIFFERENT BY FALL?

## More Vaccination

- "We're now on track to have enough vaccine supply for every adult in America by the end of May," President Biden (3/9/21)
  - All school staff who want to be vaccinated will have had an opportunity by June/July 2020.
- "It is highly likely that sometime in the fall we will have data that will give us the capability of saying the safety and comparable efficacy in children 12 to 17, 18 years old," Dr. Fauci (2/22/21)
  - Pfizer vaccine already approved for ages 16 and up.
  - If adult vaccination is completed in May/June timeframe, 16-year-olds might start getting vaccinated by summer 2020.

## Lower Community Spread







# MORE FALL PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

## What Could Go Wrong?

- Variants become more virulent.
- Variants prove to be vaccine-resistant.
- A new variant emerges that affects children more severely.
- Vaccine effectiveness proves to be short-lived.
- Vaccines are not approved for younger populations.

## What Could Go Right?

- Warm weather dramatically reduces infection rate
- Additional therapeutic treatments become available
- Vaccination helps us reach “herd immunity”
- Additional vaccines are approved, or are approved for younger people
- Booster shots for variants become available