

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

New York State Micro-cluster Strategy

Q: *What is the New York State Micro-cluster Strategy?*

A: Governor Andrew Cuomo and the NYS Department of Health (NYSDOH) instituted a Micro-cluster Strategy that uses data and factors to identify areas where clusters of COVID-19 may be occurring, assigning them as Red, Orange or Yellow Cluster Zones, and implementing recommendations and restrictions based on their rating.

For more information, visit <https://Forward.ny.gov/>

Q: *What is the District's current designation?*

A: The Floral Park-Bellerose School District is not currently in a designated zone.

Q: *What are the testing requirements for our schools if identified as being part of a yellow cluster zone?*

A: Schools located in a yellow zone must test 20% of the combined in-person staff and student population over a two-week period immediately following the announcement of a yellow zone designation. If the results of the testing reveal that the positivity rate among 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. For information regarding testing requirements for orange and red zones, please refer to <https://Forward.ny.gov/>

State Required COVID-19 Testing in Our Schools

Q: *Has the District selected a third-party vendor to administer and process COVID-19 tests?*

A: Yes. The tests will be administered by trained professionals from ATC Healthcare Testing and Screening. Samples will be processed at a laboratory.

Q: *What type of test will be used?*

A: Trained professionals will administer a PCR test, which is considered the "gold standard" in the diagnosis of COVID-19. Also called a molecular test, this COVID-19 test detects genetic material of the virus using a lab technique called polymerase chain reaction (PCR). A fluid sample is collected by inserting a long nasal swab (nasopharyngeal swab) into the nostril and taking fluid from the back of your nose to get a sample. Results will be available in 3-5 days. Students do not need to quarantine while waiting for their results.

Q: *When will testing take place?*

A: Testing will take place during the school day unless otherwise identified for parents that indicate that they want to be present for the test. We are working on a plan to test before and after school, or on Saturday morning for those parents on our survey who want to be present.

Q: *How will the selection of in-person students and staff to be tested occur?*

A: If we enter the Yellow Zone, the District will be asking for voluntary participation of students and staff by completing the FPBSD COVID-19 Survey.

Q: *What if we do not have 20% of volunteers?*

A: We would have to randomly select 20% of staff and students. If we do not reach 20%, the District would be required to shift to fully remote until the infection rate decreases to an allowable rate to re-open.

Q: *Can parents be present when their child/children are being tested?*

A: The District will arrange for a before and after school window and possible Saturdays to accommodate parents who wish to be present during their child's COVID-19 test. (See above)

Q: *Will there be a charge for in-district COVID-19 testing?*

A: There will be no out-of-pocket expenses for these tests. The third-party vendor will charge your health insurance provider for the cost of the exam. If a student is not covered by medical insurance, the parent/guardian may provide a social security number and the cost will be billed to the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act.

Q: *Can parents take their child/children to their own physician?*

A: A parent may take their child/children to the family physician as long as it falls within the required two-week time frame after being designated a testing zone. You would then provide us with those results.

Q: *Do current "fully remote students" need to fill out the FPBSD COVID-19 Survey?*

A: The survey and testing is for in-person students.