

**Floral Park-Bellerose School District**

Administration Office

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KATHLEEN SOTTILE, Ed.D.  
*Superintendent of Schools*

11/24/2020

Dear Floral Park-Bellerose School District Community,

It's hard to believe that Thanksgiving is this week and the holiday season is right around the corner. I would like to thank all of you for your patience, cooperation and unending support during this particularly challenging school year. Our amazing families, administrators, teachers, and all staff have been champions of change as we entered this new normal. Thank you!

The purpose of this correspondence is to provide you with some initial information pertaining to the COVID-19 Micro-cluster Focus Zones ([governor.ny.gov](http://governor.ny.gov)). This cluster action initiative ([esd.ny.gov](http://esd.ny.gov)) was put into place by Governor Andrew Cuomo to address COVID-19 hot spots as they occur.

'In response to concerns about increases in COVID-19 cases appearing in clusters within communities and regions of New York, Executive Order 202.68 mandated the New York State Department of Health (DOH) determine the areas of the State that require enhanced public health restrictions due to a cluster or clusters of COVID-19 cases. Once identified, the DOH will classify the area based on the risk for compromising the States containment of the COVID-19 virus. Severe risk is identified as a "red zone"; moderate risk is identified as an "orange zone"; and precautionary risk is identified as a "yellow zone".' (NYS)

As of this writing today, there are only two locations identified in Nassau County as Yellow Zones: Great Neck, and Massapequa Park. The question for us is "what happens if our community reaches Yellow Zone status under the requirements of the NYS Cluster Action Initiative?" Schools in a Yellow Zone are required to randomly test 20% of the in-person staff and students over the course of a two-week period. Our schools would remain open during this two-week period. If our schools are able to test the required number of students and staff (20% of each in both buildings), we will remain open for in-person instruction. Currently, our District is reviewing options to accomplish this. In addition, as long as the positivity rate for our schools is below the 7-day positivity rate of the area designated as a Yellow Zone, the school would no longer be required to test students and staff.

Our hope is that we avoid all of the Micro-cluster Zones, and the only way to do this is by the collective due diligence of our entire school community adhering to all of the safety protocols issued by New York State, CDC, and our District.

We do not have a timeline as to when or if we will be designated as a Yellow, Orange, or Red Zone. However, based on the current rising numbers in our community, it was important to share this information with you. Please know that our priority is the safety of our students and staff. Recently, we have had to quarantine two separate classes at FPBS for the required quarantine period, and the JLC School until December 4th. After extensive contact tracing, it was determined that none of this spread was the result of being in school.

Our goal is to do everything possible to keep schools open for those students who are attending in-person classes, but we need your continued cooperation and support to make this happen. I will continue to update you as more information is made available.

As a reminder, for the most current and up-to-date information, all traveling families should review and follow NYS COVID-19 travel advisory details, FAQs and updates that are available on the NYS Department of Health website: <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory>. As we approach the holiday season, please review the guidance for [Celebrating Thanksgiving published by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#).

Sincerely,



Dr. Kathleen Sottile  
Superintendent of Schools