

# HIGHLAND CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Thomas M. Bongiovi, Superintendent of Schools

Sarah Dudley-Lemek, Assistant Superintendent

December 4, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Recently, Governor Cuomo implemented the New York State Cluster Action Initiative that designates certain geographic areas in the State – “Yellow, Orange or Red Zones” based on certain “target metrics” that were developed by the State. Please [click here](#) for more information on the micro-cluster zones (zone requirements are subject to change by the New York State Department of Health and Governor Cuomo).

As more areas in the State become designated as yellow zones, we are beginning to prepare for the possibility of being in a yellow zone in the future. Please note that the Highland Central School District is not currently in a designated zone.

If our District falls within a designated yellow zone, we are required to test 20% of in-person students, teachers, and staff over a two (2) week period immediately following a yellow zone designation in order to continue with in-person instruction. In order to determine the size of our testing pool, we are asking parents/guardians of students who attend in-person learning to submit a consent form if you are willing to have your child tested by a school nurse on school district property. [Please click here](#) to complete and submit the consent form.

Below please find important information regarding COVID-19 testing:

- Parental/Guardian consent is required prior to testing students
- Testing will be done on school district property by a school nurse in the presence of a parent/guardian at a designated time
- The school nurses will be trained to perform testing by the Ulster County Department of Health (UCDOH)
- There will be no charge for tests performed by the District on school property
- Parents/Guardians have the option to have their child tested privately off-site and provide a copy of the results to the school nurse
- 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 seven-day positivity rate, testing at the school will no longer be required to continue

We are currently working with the UCDOH on the following:

320 PANCAKE HOLLOW ROAD • HIGHLAND, NEW YORK 12528  
PHONE: (845) 691-1014 • FAX: (845) 691-1039 • [www.highland-k12.org](http://www.highland-k12.org)

- A training schedule to certify our school nurses to perform testing
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that outlines the responsibilities of the UCDOH and the school district
- Securing test kits from the UCDOH

The establishment of a COVID-19 testing program in our schools is dependent on a partnership with the UCDOH. Therefore, a delay in the above from UCDOH could prevent us from continuing in-person learning if we are designated a yellow zone in the near future.

Please be advised that we have not made a determination on whether or not we will proceed with in-person learning if we fall within a designated orange or red zone due to the uncertainty of what the requirements may be in the future for these zones (to date the Governor has made several changes to the micro-cluster zone requirements).

If you have any questions on the above information, please contact myself or Assistant Superintendent Dudley-Lemek at 845-691-1014.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Bongiovi  
Superintendent of Schools