



November 9, 2020

Dear Stanley G. Falk School Families;

I am writing to you today to provide information regarding the new strategy being implemented by Governor Cuomo in response to the increase in COVID-19 cases in WNY.

The Governor has categorized geographic areas by region/zip codes that have been identified as areas with an outbreak or uptick in COVID-19 positive cases. The following is the cluster zone approach for the state's strategy:

- **Yellow Zone** — Precautionary/Buffer: A "Yellow Zone" area either is put in place as a broader buffer area to ensure COVID outbreak is not spreading into the broader community ("Yellow Buffer Zone"). If designated as a Yellow Zone, schools can potentially remain open but must begin random testing of students and staff.
- **Orange Zone** — Warning/Buffer: An Orange Zone area either is put in place primarily in densely populated urban areas as a tight buffer zone around a Red Zone micro-cluster ("Orange Buffer Zone") area OR is implemented independently as a focus area based on the below metrics ("Orange Warning Zone"). If designated as an Orange Zone, schools must move to fully remote learning.
- **Red Zone** — Micro-Cluster: A "Red Zone" focus area is put in place to contain spread from a specific, defined geographic area. If designated as Red Zones, schools must move to fully remote learning.

Although our safety efforts have been followed diligently by our students and staff, as of today, our Rossler, Cambridge, and Roosevelt locations are all within the designated Yellow Zone as outlined by Governor Cuomo. This includes the following restrictions and requirements:

- Houses of Worship: 50 percent capacity
- Mass Gatherings: 25 people maximum, indoor and outdoor
- Businesses: Open
- Dining: Indoor and outdoor dining, 4 person maximum per table
- Schools: If schools remain open for in-person learning, there will be a requirement for mandatory weekly testing for 20% of students and staff

Today, Erie County Executive, Mark Poloncarz, confirmed that schools should be receiving further information within the next 24 hours regarding the Yellow Zone designation and what will be expected of schools to meet the testing requirements. The Stanley G. Falk School will discuss and review this information in partnership with other Erie County school districts in the affected area and the Erie County Department of Health.

It is important that all staff, students, and families are prepared to transition to a fully remote learning model. In the coming days, plans will be solidified and communicated with staff, students and families to ensure that instruction is uninterrupted if and when we are to transition to virtual learning.

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I am proud of how well our students, teachers, staff and families have done to comply with the health and safety protocols we instituted to safely open schools and provide in-person learning for our students. Thank you for your careful attention to the screening procedures before your child comes to school each day. Continuing with all recommended precautions is important as we face a time of rising COVID-19 cases in the county.

I will continue to keep you informed as we receive more information. As always, thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachael Greene". The signature is written in a cursive style with a light grey shadow effect behind the text.

Rachael Greene
Stanley G. Falk School Superintendent