

***The Newburgh Enlarged City School District has developed a COVID-19 Testing Plan in response to the recent designation of our community by the New York State Department of Health as a Yellow Zone. Our analysis of the zone has determined that only Fostertown and Balmville would be excluded from the testing. Interim guidance provided by the New York State Department of Health pertaining to Covid-19 testing requirements for Public and Non-Public Schools located in areas designated as “Yellow Zones” under the New York State Cluster Action Initiative has guided the development of the plan.***

### **Yellow Zone Requirements**

The District will Test 20% of in-person students, faculty and staff over the two-week period immediately following the announcement of a yellow zone designation in all designated schools.

The District received notification on Friday, November 20, 2020 by Mr. Dan Fuller from the Governor’s Office during a conference call.

The testing timeline has been established based on in-person instruction occurring on Monday, November 23 and Tuesday, November 24. Therefore, the 20% testing mandate must be completed no later than Monday, February 1, 2021. (This is based on an academic calendar (5) day week, not a (7) day week.) Please note, the District will initiate testing of faculty, staff and teachers prior to the return to in-person instruction.

If the results of the school testing revealed the positivity rate among the 20% of those tested is lower than the yellow zone’s 7-day positivity rate, testing at that school will no longer be required to continue.

According to the NYSDOH, a positivity rate in a school that is lower than in the yellow zone is a sufficient demonstration that in-person instruction is not a significant driver of the local viral spread.

If the results of the testing over the two weeks reveal that the positivity rate among in-person students, staff and faculty is higher than the Yellow Zone’s current 7-day positivity rate, the school will be required to continue to test 20% of the in-person population on a bi-weekly basis.

#### **The NECSD Testing Strategy:**

The Newburgh Enlarged City School District will coordinate the completion of the testing for all students and staff. The district will assume responsibility for the communication of results and the disposal of medical waste. Contact tracing will be the responsibility of the district and results will be shared with the Orange County Department of Health.

The NYSDOH will provide rapid testing kits for the virus that causes COVID-19 to local health departments, hospitals, pharmacies, and other healthcare providers at no cost so long as testing is open to the public, offered free of charge and prioritizes vulnerable and at-risk populations that may not currently have equitable access to testing. The District will be requesting rapid testing kits, on behalf of The Horizon Medical Group as allowed by the NYSDOH in their November 12, 2020 Interim Guidance on Mandatory COVID-19 Testing in Public and Non-Public Schools located in Areas Designated as “Yellow Zones” Under the New York State Cluster Action Initiative updated on November 12, 2020.