Responding and Preparing for Yellow, Orange and Red Zone Designation

Westchester County Department of Health
December 18, 2020
Red and Orange Zone Testing Guidance

Interim guidance updated on December 4, 2020

- Schools no longer required to close in-person instruction following a micro-cluster red or orange zone designation. Schools in these zones may remain open for in-person instruction, subject to strict adherence to this guidance and any directives issued by DOH.

- Schools are no longer required to submit a list.
Schools in a Red Zone

• If designated as a Red Zone, a total of 30% of the in-person students, faculty and staff must be tested for COVID-19 over the one-month period following the zone designation.

• The numbers tested should be proportionately spread across the month with 15% to be tested biweekly.
Schools in an Orange Zone

- If designated as an Orange Zone, a total of 20% of the in-person students, faculty and staff must be tested for COVID-19 over the one-month period following the zone designation.

- The numbers tested should be proportionately spread across the month with 10% to be tested biweekly.
Closure Metrics

- The school will be required to close in-person instruction if the random sampling generates:
  - 9 or more positive cases in any school, or
  - if for a sample size of more than 300 weekly tests, achieves a positivity rate of 2% or higher (6 cases or more depending on sample size) in New York City,
  - or 3% (9 or more cases depending on sample size) outside of New York City, of one such discrete sample.
Yellow Zone Testing Requirements

- Geographic areas are designated as yellow precautionary zones due to increased viral spread, as demonstrated by increased new cases, positivity, hospital admissions, and other factors, or as yellow buffer zones that are adjacent to red or orange zones.

- Effective the week of November 16, 2020: schools in yellow zones must test 20% of in-person students, faculty and staff over the two-week period immediately following the announcement of a yellow zone designation.
  - 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 7-day positivity rate, testing at that school will no longer be required to continue. 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 local viral spread.
  - However, if the results of the testing over the first two weeks reveal that the positivity rate among in-person student, 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.
Testing Options

To ensure that students, faculty and staff have been tested for COVID-19, schools have the following options:

- Schools can accept written test results from healthcare providers;
- Schools can have students, faculty, and/or staff go to a test site run by New York State to have specimens collected for testing;
- Schools that currently have a limited-service laboratory (LSL) registration can add COVID-19 antigen testing to their existing LSL registration, request to receive rapid tests from the state and perform testing on their students, faculty, and staff;
- Schools can become approved to perform testing by obtaining an LSL registration and once approval is granted, request to receive rapid tests from the state and perform testing on their students, faculty, and staff;
- Schools can utilize pooled testing. However, pooled testing must be conducted by a laboratory that is approved to conduct diagnostic pooled testing so that individuals receive their test results and they can be reported to the state.
- Schools can partner with regional health providers that have an LSL or are willing to request an LSL.
Yellow Zone Directive:

*Test 20% of in-person students, staff, employees over 2 week period*

Options: To test with Point of Care Rapid COVID-19 Diagnostic Tests. These are tests that can be performed as CLIA-waived tests in an LSL.

1. File for a Limited Services Laboratory license with NYSDOH.
   - The physician for the school can service as the laboratory director.
   - Tests can be obtained directly from NYSDOH

2. Work through the Limited Services Laboratory License of WCDH
   - Need to obtain tests from WCDH
Point of Care Diagnostic Tests

• Rapid Tests that are resulted at the time of the test, but have limitations compared with the standard PCR molecular Nasopharyngeal swab.

• Tests readily available – Rapid Antigen read in 15 minutes
  o Rapid Antigen: NYSDOH supplies the BINAX_NOW Test – See link for Training video

Who can perform Point of Care COVID-19 Tests?

What are the requirements for staff collecting specimens?

• On March 15, 2020, a health advisory was issued regarding specimen collection by unlicensed individuals. Briefly, the advisory indicates that specimen collection by unlicensed individuals should occur only under the direction of a licensed healthcare professional who is authorized to order a COVID-19 test and training is required.

To obtain LSL license application

Click on “Obtaining a Limited Service Laboratory Registration Certificate” to review additional information and to access the application materials.

https://www.wadsworth.org/regulatory/clep/limited-service-lab-certs
What school needs for testing for use of WCDH license or school license

1. Standing order by district physician to test for COVID-19
2. Consent for each person to be tested (English and Spanish)
3. Test requisition with all NYSDOH required fields completed for each test performed (sample to be shown)
4. Test Kits directly from NYSDOH or from WCDH (914-995-5800)
5. Timers for test
6. N95 Fit tested staff to perform testing
7. Train all staff using COVID-19 rapid tests. Use the Abbott training video
8. PPE for all staff testing: N95 respirators, eye protection, gown and gloves
9. Form to give to patients tested with results
10. WCDH Protocol for Isolation ready to give to any patient that tests positive (see WCDH website)
11. Need to establish the system for uploading all results into Electronic Laboratory Reporting System of the NYSDOH
12. Results are also reported into the NYSDOH School Report Card
Test Requisition for COVID-19 Diagnostic Testing:

Contains all required fields for ECLRS data entry.

Schools may develop a similar requisition using the school LSL license number.
Date of Test: ___/___/_______  Test: SARS-CoV-2 Antigen Test

Patient Last Name: ________________________________
First Name: ________________________________
Date of Birth: ___/___/_______

Test Result:
☐ Negative
☐ Positive
You must isolate
See protocol

SARS-CoV-2 Antigen (Ag) Test: Key Points

• This test is a rapid test that detects SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) proteins.
• A negative rapid antigen test is not a final result if you have symptoms of COVID-19. If you have symptoms of COVID-19 you must obtain a PCR test that is nasal-pharyngeal swab.
Entering Results into ECLRS

Results can be reported to ECLRS by file upload or by manual entry into ECLRS. Please contact the ECLRS Help Desk at (866) 325–7743 or eclrs@health.ny.gov to begin this process.
When operating under WCDH LSL you will need:

School will need to provide WCDH with:
1. Zone designation
2. Letter requesting LSL use with:
   a. With a copy of standing order signed by licensed health care professional
   b. With a copy of the list of persons performing testing, indicating that those persons have been trained, and have viewed the training video (this must be signed by the health care professional who is signing the standing order)
3. Copies of all completed Test Requisitions with test results. One set is kept at school for ECLRS data entry. Second set scanned to WCDH.
4. Data summary of all tests performed by site, date and results

WCDH will provide school with:
1. Test kits if needed
   • Picked up by school at 134 Court Street, White Plains.
2. Test Requisition
3. Test Report Form for the patient
4. As feasible, a Public Health Nurse will be assigned to the district to assist with planning questions.
How to Prepare for Yellow Zone and Testing

1. Order Tests
2. Speak with your school physician / NP about an LSL.
3. Contact ECLRS to learn about testing results reporting; (866) 325–7743 or eclrs@health.ny.gov to begin this process.
Preparing: Order Tests from NYSDOH

Office of Testing
Wadsworth Center
New York State Department of Health
Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12237
Email: COVID19rapidtest@health.ny.gov

1) **STEP ONE, APPLY**
For your school to receive COVID-19 rapid tests, it can become a limited service laboratory (LSL) or partner with another external entity that has an LSL to conduct testing.
When completing/adding to an existing LSL application, indicate the type of waived test procedures that you intend to perform.

1. The type of COVID-19 test (e.g. COVID-19 antigen)
2. The specific test/device

**SPECIAL NOTE:** The device listed below is the “only” COVID-19 rapid test that will be distributed to schools by NYSDOH and may be used under an LSL Registration.

**COVID-19 Antigen**
- Abbott BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Card

Contact COVID19rapidtest@health.ny.gov if you need more information on completing this first step.
When in a Yellow Zone and Requesting Test Kits from WCDH – Complete this form

Contact csteers@westchestergov.com
Questions?

Thank you.
For More Information

Visit us at: www.westchestergov.com/health

Like us at: facebook.com/wchealthdept

Follow us at: twitter.com/wchealthdept