

Dear NSCSD Parents and Guardians,

I am writing with an update on the status of our schools.

**Schools Located in Yellow Zones.** At this time, two additional schools within the NSCSD have been designated as part of the yellow zone microcluster. These schools are St. Margaret's and St. Rose. This makes a total of 8 schools within our District boundaries identified to be in a yellow zone:

- Allen Road Elementary
- KWS Bear Road Elementary
- Roxboro Road Elementary
- Roxboro Road Middle School
- St. Margaret's (Parochial)
- St. Rose (Parochial)
- North Syracuse Junior High School
- North Syracuse Early Education Program (Main Street)

**Testing Requirement.** To remain open for in-person instruction, schools located in yellow zones are required to test 20% of students and staff each week. At this time, with the majority of families surveyed indicating they would like to have their child(ren) tested, the District is planning to move forward with testing in collaboration with Onondaga County. Our intention will be to start testing next week. **No child will be tested without parental consent and parents can be present.** The test we will likely be using (the BinaxNOW antigen test) is a rapid test producing results in 15 minutes. The test is a nasal swab test, which is not as invasive as the previous nasal swab test. We will send an update regarding scheduling.

**Cluster Zones.** The New York State Department of Health has developed a system to identify microclusters of COVID-19 spread. Yellow zones have a 7-day rolling average infection rate of 3% or higher for 10 days. Orange zones have a 7-day rolling average infection rate of 4% or higher for ten days. Red zones have a 7-day rolling average infection rate of 5% or higher for 10 days. Schools in the orange or red zones must transition to remote learning. For more details about microcluster zones please see the NYS Department of Health [website](#).

**Status of Schools.** Our number one responsibility is the safety and well-being of our students, staff, and community. Schools will remain open as we implement the testing program. We are in the process of scheduling testing at the affected schools. The County is in the process of scheduling testing at the designated schools and will continuously monitor the daily infection rates. We will update our parents and staff as we move forward.

I know this is an extremely challenging time for our students, staff, and NSCSD families. We appreciate your patience and support as we work through the challenges associated with COVID-19.

Sincerely,

Daniel Bowles