

# VALLEY STREAM SCHOOL DISTRICTS 13, 24, 30 & CHSD

## Valley Stream, New York

December 10, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

We are writing to update you regarding the Executive Order issued by Governor Cuomo, which addresses schools placed physically within a designated yellow, orange or red zone. In this order, the Governor identified areas in the state that require enhanced public health restrictions based upon cluster-based cases of COVID-19. Although the positive cases of COVID-19 within our schools remain low, the [NYS Cluster Action Initiative](#) may, in the future, identify Valley Stream zip codes as being in a yellow, orange or red zone area that requires the District to take additional measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. While the District is obligated to implement testing and reach the in-school staff and in-school students threshold, no student will be tested without parental consent and all student testing is voluntary. **Students receiving full remote instruction are not included.**

According to the [DOH Interim Guidance on Mandatory COVID-19 Testing in Public and Non-Public Schools](#):

1. Schools in the yellow zones must test 20% of in-person students, faculty and staff over the two-week period following the announcement of a yellow zone designation.
2. If the results of the testing reveal that the positivity rate among those tested is lower than the yellow-zone's current 7-day positivity rate, then testing will no longer be required at the school.
3. If the results reveal that the positivity rate is higher than the yellow zone's current 7-day positivity rate, then the school will be required to follow further guidance from the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH). If the District is unable to test 20% of a school's in-person population as per #1 above, or does not comply with the testing program, it is our understanding that schools will be mandated to move/transition to full remote instruction.
4. For schools located in a geographic area designated as an orange zone, a total of 20% of 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% the maximum/minimum to be tested biweekly.
5. For schools located in a geographic area designated as a red zone, a total of 30% of 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% the maximum/minimum to be tested biweekly.

ATC Healthcare Testing and Screening, which is a national company, will handle the entire process. All testers are trained and certified medical practitioners and are familiar with pediatric techniques. They will be administering a pediatric version of the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test that requires a minimally invasive swab near the base of the nasal cavity. Results will be available in approximately 72 hours, and parents will be notified by ATC of a positive result as soon as it is available (no contact denotes a negative test result). ATC will accept the parent's health insurance with no copay, a student social security number, or for those without health insurance, the CARES Act will cover the cost. Those volunteering to be tested will incur no copays or additional out-of-pocket expense. There is also the option of a parent taking their child to a private health provider and then having those results submitted to the District. A link to the survey is below for those parents who intend to consent to their child's participation should the situation arise. Those who consent to have their child tested and are selected will receive more specific information.

**Survey Link:** <https://forms.gle/KWdYZ337HUeg7Mat7>

The District is navigating this process as set forth by Governor Cuomo and the NYSDOH. All information is accurate as of today but is subject to change based on revised/additional guidance. Unfortunately, the District has no input into the state's yellow, orange and red zone designations, but we are required to implement NYSDOH protocols for mitigation of the COVID-19 virus.

Thank you for your understanding, cooperation and support as we navigate this major undertaking to ensure the health and safety of our students, faculty, and staff while attempting to keep our schools open. If you have any questions please contact your building principal.

We appreciate your patience and confidence. Stay safe and be well.

Sincerely,

Dr. Evelyn  
Valley Stream 13

Dr. Sturz  
Valley Stream 24

Dr. Stirling  
Valley Stream 30

Dr. Heidenreich  
VS Central HS District