

November 9, 2020

Dear Members of the West Seneca School Community,

The purpose of this communication is to provide information regarding Governor Cuomo's new "Micro-Cluster" strategy for reducing the spread of COVID-19 across New York State. This strategy involves designating geographical regions (e.g. by zip code, neighborhood, etc.) with or near regions with elevated rates of COVID-19 positive cases. The following is an outline of focus zones that have been developed by NYS:

Yellow Zone – Precautionary/Buffer (lowest warning level):

This zone classification is put into place to either act as a broader buffer area to keep COVID-19 from spreading to the larger community OR is due to an elevated rate of positive COVID-19 tests.

Orange Zone – Warning/Buffer (higher than yellow warning level):

This zone classification is put into place primarily in densely populated urban areas as a tight buffer zone around a Red Zone micro-cluster OR is implemented independently due to an elevated rate of positive COVID-19 tests (higher than a Yellow Zone). Schools located within an Orange Zone must operate in a fully remote manner (i.e. no in-person learning).

Red Zone – Micro-Cluster (highest warning level):

This zone classification is put into place to contain the spread of COVID-19 from a specific, defined geographic area. Schools located within a Red Zone must operate in a fully remote manner (i.e. no in-person learning).

Today we learned that West Seneca, along with several other communities throughout Erie County, has been designated as a Yellow Zone by Governor Cuomo. Although precautionary in nature, this designation means that 20% of our students who are participating in-person instruction and our staff will be required to participate in COVID-19 testing.

We learned today that the district will be responsible for administering this testing process. We are awaiting further guidance from Erie County officials regarding the manner in which this testing mandate must be met and will communicate details as soon as this information becomes available.

Our faculty and staff have been working on campus since before the school year began and I am pleased to say that we have done so in a safe and productive manner. As always, I am appreciative of the involvement and support of the members of our school community in meeting the needs of our students.

Sincerely,

Matthew Bystrak
Superintendent

